FACTSHEET FIVE
MIKE GUNDERLOY
41 Lawrence Street
Medford, MA 02155

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Staph

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Visiting Mail Junkie	Al Fry
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Dangerous Drugs Courtesy of	Vitamin A Imports, Ltd.
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Approved by	Eighteenth Century Communications, Ltd.

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FACTSHEET FIVE is published four times a year, appearing in the mails on or about the first day of February, May, August and November. Subscriptions are available at $1.75 (cash, check, MO) or $1.54 (mint US stamps) per issue, up to 4 issues in advance. These copies are sent Bulk Rate within the US, First Class to Canada, and Surface Mail overseas.

First Class subscriptions within the US are now available at $2.50 per issue. Air Mail subscriptions overseas are available at $5 per issue.

Deadlines for FACTSHEET FIVE are the 20th of January, April, July and October.

FACTSHEET FIVE advertising space is available at the following rates:

Full page: $25
Half Page: $15
Quarter Page: $10
Business Card $5

Page size is 7" x 12½" if you dont mind having your stuff reduced to 64%, or 4½" x 8" if you want it to appear full size. Exchange ads with other publications may be arranged.

Back issues of FACTSHEET FIVE are available as follows:

#1, 2, 3, 4	$1 each
#6, 9, 12, 14	$2 each
#5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13	$3 each
Complete set	$25

The first four are ditto-printed, and as such are not of the same high quality as those to follow. The $2 copies are those still in the original printing; the $3 copies are xerox reprints, which look the same but costs me substantially more.

FACTSHEET FIVE

Once again it's time for the zine of crosscurrents and cross-pollination. Available in person or by mail from Mike Gunderloy, who still lives at 41 Lawrence St., Medford, MA 02155; pjone (617)-391-3496. This is Pretzel Press publication #638, and is itnended for direct bulk mailing to subscribers and Good People across the country and around the world. Press run: 600 copies. 15th issue.

*****

Here we go with the explanation of your mailing code. It's on the first line of your address label, over to the right. I'll try to make a special note on your issue if it's time to renew, but you'd best check this just in case.

A number indicates the last issue that you'll be getting. So if the number is "15", you'd better Do Something if you want to keep getting FF. If it's a "15" and you don't know me, chances are I found your name in an old zine or someone gave it to me. Wanna subscribe?

" " indicates that you've got nothing to worry about, because you're on the staph, you won a contest, or you just got lucky.

"A" means that you're getting this because of artwork: you either sent me some or I want you to send me some or both.

"D" means you're a distributor and so you get one copy for yourself as a freebie.

"P" means you're in the slammer. FACTSHEET FIVE is always free to prisoners, but you have to stay in touch with me to keep getting it. Otherwise, I assume that the Mysterious Them are intercepting your copies.

"M" means that you sent me music to review, or that you promised to send me music in the future.

"T" means that we're trading zines, all-for-all, or that I'd really like you to consider a trade so that I can review your zine.

Any of the above followed by a number means that you'd best get in touch by that number issue or your subscription will vanish.

And remember, FF is mailed Bulk Rate, so undeliverable copies can end up in the Great Dead Letter Office in the sky instead of being forwarded or returned. So make sure your COA gets sent to me in time to avoid that happening.

*****

Subscription rates are on the Staph page, but here they are again: $1.75 (cash, check, money order) or $1.54 in stamps per issue for a regular sub. $2.50 an issue for a First Class sub within the US. $5 an issue for overseas Air Mail. Any of these rates are good for up to 4 issues in advance -- send money for more than four issues and it becomes a contribution to the health of FF.

Thanks to Donna Young for another generous contribution this issue, and to John Bridgman and Bob Black for sending stuff to review.

IMPORTANT NOTE: I do not accept used postage stamps for FF subs.

A single sample copy of FF is $1, if it's the first time you've gotten in touch. After that, the standard rates apply. I'll send samples to your friends for $1 each if you want -- just send their names and the money.

In lieu of sending stamps or money, you may receive FF by trading me your own fanzine, sending records or tapes to review, send me art to print, send me a book you've published for review, or get thrown in the slammer. You can also send me something to review that I haven't seen before (this is getting tougher all the time), or by bartering dangerous drugs, negotiable securities, or canned goods.

Please note that if you want to send new and oddball zines for me to see that I don't care to review anything from the KKK, National Socialist party, or similar hate groups. You gotta draw the line someplace.

FF is also looking for distributors. Wholesale prices are available by negotiation on lots of ten or more copies of a single issue.

What will not work for getting this zine is sending just a letter, sending too little money, or non-credible threats.

I'll look at unsolicited short manuscripts, but I don't guarantee publication, return, or even acknowledgement. In general, I'm not interested in poetry, fiction, plays, or music or fanzine reviews.

See you all in 90 days.

GLOSSARY

Anarchist: One who believes that we would all be better off without government. Most anarchists know what the true anarchist society would look like. They all disagree about it.

APA: Amateur Press Association. A magazine jointly written by the subscribers. Generally each subscriber is responsible for printing his own pages and mailing them to a central point, from which he gets back copies of everyone's pages. Sometimes likened to a cocktail party in print.

Church of the SubGenius: A manic faith based on the mystical teachings of the late J.R. "Bob" Dobbs and dedicated to helping people reclaim the Slack that the system has stolen from them. More details $1 from PO Box 140306, Dallas, TX 75214.

Constitutionalist: People generally on the conservative right who feel the government of this country is trampling wholesale over individual rights and should be forced to adhere to the letter of the Constitution. Major areas of concern usually include the IRS, the Federal Exchange System, the lack of a gold standard, and how to defend yourself in court.

Discordian: A believer in the idea that God is a crazy woman. As evidencethe Discordian points to all the chaos in the world. See Shea & Wilson's ILLUMINATUS! trilogy. Also called Erisians.

Fan: Usually short for "science fiction fan". Fans are usually people who used to read SF and now like to hang around with other people who used to read SF. Many are active in publishing something.

Fen: The plural of fan.

Loc: Letter of comment on a fanzine.

Mail-Art Network (MAN): Similar to an apa but involving more art, less words, and a wide variety of media. A consequence of the ready availability of copying machines in our society.

Minicomic: Like a comic book only smaller and usually printed in black and white. Typical size is about 3" x 4".

Neopagan: Member of any of a number of related religions that are involved in nature- or Goddess-worship. Loosely bonded by a common search for non-heirarchal alternatives to organized religion. Often polytheistic or pantheistic. Sometimes just called pagans.

Networking: What you're doing by reading FACTSHEET FIVE and then writing to people. Trendy synonym for "Communication".

OE: Official Editor. The person who runs an APA or MAN, puts the thing together, keeps track of the finances and sends it out in the mail.

Pfanzine: A fanzine dealing with music of any sort, derived from "punk fanzine". The silent "p" serves to distinguish them from sfanzines. Fastest-growing segment of fanzines today.

Posterist: A producer of single-page posters, usually illustrating some obscure political or social point or designed to confuse the normal people. Various posterists use MANs, telephone poles, or direct mail to distribute their work.

SASE: Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope. Should be legal size with 22¢ postage unless specified otherwise.

Sfanzine: A fanzine dealing with sceince fiction, or at least put out by a SF fan. The silent "s" is to distinguish them from pfanzines. Tradiationally more important than eating to the average fan.

Situationist: Member, by self-definition, of an artistic movement with vague ties to the surrealists and dadaists. Dedicated to an intensely convoluted analysis of everyday life written by a bunch of crazy Frenchmen. Do good things with appropriated art.

The Usual: Traditional method of obtaining sfanzines without stooping to using cash. Generally includes trading one's own sfanzine, writing a loc, contributing an article or some art, or being beneficiary of the editor's whim.

Vonu: From Voluntary and Not Vulnerable. A method of obtaining individual liberty by escaping from society into the wilderness and only coming back for cheeseburgers.

PUBLISHER'S SHOWCASE

Back to the world of zines we go, starting once again with the cream of the crop from the past 3 months. Rest assured that these showcase zines are not precisely the best of the batch; they just seemed particularly good to me for one reason or another, and this is my way of saying "Thanks!" to the publishers who gave me something fun to read.

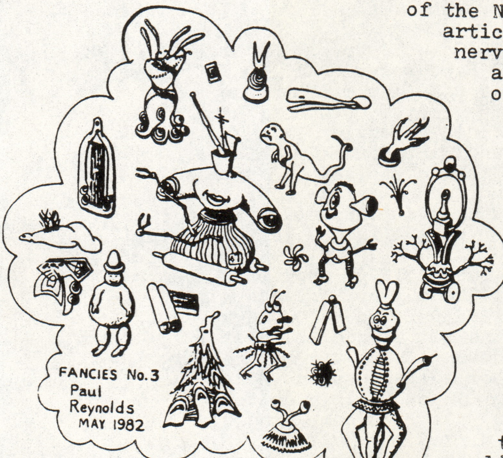
*****

EPIA SOCIETY DIGEST, June 1985 ($2 from PO Box 6163, San Bernardino, CA 92412): EPIA stands for "End Poverty In America", and these guys publish the most comprehensive clearing-house for Constitutionalist news around. They really are a "digest", reprinting articles from all over the map on fraudulent currency issues, self-defense in court, tax avoidance strategies and honest-to-god news -- did you know we're in the process of giving back part of Alaska to the Russians? If this is your introduction to the Constitutionalists, ask for the March-April issue with the rundown on the 16th Amendment research, the background on Tupper Saussy's case, and lots more.

*****

HIGH FRONTIERS #2 ($6.50 from Sacred Cow Mutilators, PO Box 40271, Berkeley, CA 94704): The price is steep, but the zine is huge: 32 pages of 17"x11" slick paper, mailed in a tube. But the impressive part is the contents: this is the zine for those interested in the sort of far-out nonsense plugged in Robert Anton Wilson's COSMIC TRIGGER and similar works. Wilson is here, along with Ram Dass, Terence McKenna, Paul Krassner and other hoi polloi of the New Age. Packed full of upbeat articles on how to fine tune your own nervous system for maximum happiness, as well as some damned funny parody of the new age -- interested in Neuro-Linguini Programming? Also attempts to define the "yummie" as a sort of mutant yuppie.

*****



IRON MOUNTAIN, Winter 1985 ($5 from Artemisia Press, PO Box 2282, Boulder, CO 80306): "A journal of magical religion", this one takes a more scholarly approach than most other pagan journals. This issue contains a couple of articles on Carlos Casteneda, including an interview with one of his fellow grad students; an examination of what Native American shamans say when the magic doesn't work; and a lively letter column, plus a batch of book reviews. I get the impression that the editors are believers, but critical believers, able to question and explore the boundaries of their faith.

*****

THE LETTER EXCHANGE #6 ($2 from Steve Sikora, PO Box 6218, Albany, CA 94706): A zine for the committed letter-writer, LE is committed to making contacts between interested writers. Each issue consists mainly of short listings from those desiring more correspondence; ID numbers are provided rather than addresses, and the LE forwards any mail that may come in for the writer. And come in it does; they forward about a thousand letters every two months. Now branching out to include articles on writing, letters written by fictitious personalities and group rotating letters, LE proves that the fine art of writing to another person is far from dead.

*****

LITTLE FREE PRESS #51 (FREE from Rt. 2, Box 36A, Cushing, MN 56443): LFP is Ernest Mann's attempt to change the world by getting rid of cash. Why don't we all work for free, no wages -- then all products could be free and the world's problems would be solved? Stated baldly it sounds ridiculous -- but Mann manages to make it almost plausible in his continuing crusade. Right now he's looking for readers who want to help spread the word -- so if that might be you, drop him a line. Certainly there are ideas here that you'll never find in an economics text, or anywhere else for that matter.

*****

NILCH #1 ($3 from Multinø-tionalist, PO Box 811, Junction City, KS 66441): One of the premier posterists is back with this new project, and it's about damned time. This issue consists of a series of nihilist, anarchist and Situationist posters, thumbing their collective noses at work, society, money and each other. "For us, humor is an end as well as a means". The editor is seeking submissions for the next issue, "A Visual Appreciation of Arthur Schopenhauer". He says, "Contributions may be written or visual but must be in a deliciously dreary and pessimistic vein."

*****

SMILE 7 (Send IRCs to Stewart Home, 31 Norfolk Farm Road, Pyrford, Woking, Surrey GU22 8LH ENGLAND): At least I think that's the right address, as SMIL is the organ of the Neoist Movement, and is published by lots of Neoists world round. But I think this particular one came from Surrey. Anyhow, Neoism is a new artistic movement dedicated to making its proprietor rich and famous. This propietor is of course the legendary Monty Cantsin, and this issue contains photos of many Monty Cantsins worldwide. "Neoism superseeds all previous philosophies by its ability to entertain itself for hours on end with nothing more than a loaf of bread, a jug of wine, flaming foods, and a vibrator." Art for parody's sake, parody for art's sake.

*****

SUBURBAN RELAPSE #13 ($1.50 from PO Box 610906, N. Miami, FL 33261): And where else can you find the Pandoras and Kitten Natividad in the same magazine? That's right, this pfanzine contains an extended interview with the legendary Russ Meyer, producer of big tit films. It's amusing to have an extended interview with the all-girl Pandoras follOw right on the heels of this article. Also of note are the record reviews that don't feel compelled to say good things about every band they mention and a chatty live music column that avoids boring by virtue of being short. A pfanzine that won't overwhelm you with pictures of dead babies, skulls and leather goods.

*****

THE SAN FRAN SYNTHESIST April-May 1985 ($10/yr from Buck Moon, PO Box 40916, San Francisco, CA 94140): Long time FF readers may remember my raving about a zine called AWESOME two years back. Well, this is AWESOME's replacement, and a fine bit of confusion it is. It's called the Synthesist because it doesn't have any particular editorial philosophy: "when any aware, or self-conscious Being has perceived the Greater Whole, that Being cannot resist the temptation to analyze the lesser parts and then lay claim to some stupid, teleological theory. Fine. We'll print almost any Bullshit in our letters column." Best bet: the editorial on "Cartoon Reality" analyzing Walt Disney as seen by the philosophical heavies of all times, from Plato to Hegel. This is literature to stretch your mind like used bubble gum.

*****

VIEW FROM THE LEDGE 13 (SASE from PO Box 57141, Washington, DC 20037): Forget READER'S DIGEST; this is the magazine to read to keep on top of the burning issues of our time. I don't know how Chuck Shepherd finds all these silly news items; I'm just glad he shares them with the rest of us. Highlights of this issue include "Penile injuries from vacuum cleaners"; A report of Iowa Roulette (guess where the cow will poop first); and the story of the electronic potato. Further proof that our society is degenerating into a Saturday Night Live skit.

*****

WHO REALLY CARES #10 ($1 from Taran Singleton, 31-920 Shefford Rd., Gloucester, ONT K1J 6X4 CANADA): I think this started out as a pfanzine, but now it's more of an anti-system anti-political zine -- or "garbonzine" as they put it. Some music is mixed in with the articles condemning all of capitalist society: cars, jets, meat-eating, credit cards, you name it. Refreshingly frank and thoughtful, with completely uninhibited layout and random page-numbering. Even if you disagree with every word, you'll have fun trying to figure out why.

ZINES

ALTERNATE ENERGY TRANSPORTATION Vol. 6 #12 ($2 from EV Consultants, 327 Central Park West, New York, NY 10025): "The newsletter of technology in motion" covers anything that moves people and is fueled by something other than gasoline. This is a reference for the serious enthusiast interested in tracking down new and exciting things. Most of the emphasis is on electric vehicles, because that's where most of the research is, but they do include stuff on things as far-out as hydrogen fuel and strange hybrid technologies.

*****

AMERICAN FORUM #17 ($13.95/yr from Box 261, Dept. E, Staten Island, NY 10302): "For the Opinionated" says the masthead, and that seems to pretty well sum it up. Your money gets you the monthly FORUM and the weekly UPDATER; both carry a variety of stories from the tabloid and other far-out press and comments from readers. Much of the copntents deal with sex and sexploitation, but they seem to be getting more interested in the tax protest movement lately. Who knows where they'll go next?

*****

AMERICAN LIVING #14 ($2 from PO Box 901, Allston, MA 02134): This is the "Special Guest Issue" of this MAN. It features drawings and collages from several dozen artists of various sorts. Collage and line drawings predominate in this 44-pager, printed on a cheery selection of rainbow colors. There's no common theme here, so if you like any collage art at all you'll probably find something that appeals to you.

*****

AMERICAN RATIONALIST, May-June 1985 ($1 from 2001 St. Clair Ave., St. Louis, MO 63188): This is the 30th anniversary issue of this freethinkers' publication, and they're still going strong. AR is dedicated to exposing the absurdities of religion, keeping an eye on the separation of church and state, and reviewing books of interest to atheists -- either as good reading or as Horrible Examples. The lead article in this issue attempts to show that all religion, particularly the Judeo-Christian one, is descended from phallic worship.

*****

AMOEBA MAN Promo Issue (SASE (?) from Davis White, 11860 Critton Circle, Woodbridge, VA 22192): This is four pages of comics, designed to promote AMOEBA MAN #1, which is $1.53 (and which I haven't seen). If the strips reprinted here are reasonable selections, it's of somewhat rough quality. Some of it is simply teenage sexual humor, but some is genuinely funny -- "Snake $10 by the Foot" is my favorite. I'll let you know how the real thing is if I get a copy.

*****

ANN ARBOR ABORIGINE, Spring 1985 ($1 from PO Box 4542, Ann Arbor, MI 48106): I think people are doing zines just to screw up my categorizations. The front half of this one is pretty much a MAN, but the back is definitely a pfanzine. After working through the collages, the strange photos and the words of wisdom from Abby Hoffman, you get to the band interviews and live show reviews. I guess it's just sort of a compendium of modern culture. Or at least what modern culture there is in Michigan.

*****

ANTI-AUTHORITARIANS ANONYMOUS (SASE from PO Box 11331, Eugene, OR 97440): The SASE should get you some of their stuff, but for $2 you can have "Adventures in subversion", 4 years of collected flyers from these posterists. They are in the Situationist tradition, often taking commercial images and twisting them around to make satirical points, and very fond of big words. An introduction to the Situationist ethic. Or something.

*****

ANTISOCIAL COMICS #3 ($2.50 from Tom Roberts, 333 S. East Ave. #209, Oak Park, IL 60302): This underground comic is up to 56 pages and apparently still growing. Contents vary from just plain silly to just plain sleazy. I think the best of the lot is the seemingly-endless serial SPACE INQUISITION, which has published a good many pages of interstellar adventure since its debut in ANTISOCIAL #1. The color back cover, featuring a sadistic looking clown businessman, is worthy of being made into a wall poster.

ATROPHI (about $1 from 1618 Lombard #L, San Francisco, CA 94123): MAN featuring stark, mostly-black pieces from a batch of bizarre artists. These collages and drawings are designed to give you nightmares, or at least severe headaches. A good source of contacts for the independent art and video world, if you can decipher it.

*****

AUGEN #3 ($1.50 from Holly L'Italien, 381 Bridge St. #2, Brooklyn, NY 11201): This is sort of a mail-art apa: most of the contributions are pictures but a few are in words. The announced theme of this issue was Politics, and as might be expected, the contributors are for the most part soundly anti-political. I don't find any of this particularly moving, save for the very concept of having the Average Joe express his feelings out in the open. By now the Feminism issue should be out and perhaps available; I haven't seen a copy.

*****

AUHTISTIC CHAINSAW GAZETTE #4 (75¢ & 2 stamps from Katherine Nichols, 107 E. John #302, Champaign, IL 61820): This is another micro-reduced magazine of contemporary creativity (i.e., the print is small and they cover a lot of ground). There's a quite interesting long article on the crossovers between punk and heavy metal, a few random stories, strange little drawings, an open letter to neo-expressionists, and more. I think the editor is just trying to encourage people to write about what they want to, and she's doing a darned good job. The music article alone is worth the price.

*****

BANG! #8 ($1.25 from Rocco Cipollone, 77 Newbern Ave., Medford, MA 02155): This seems to be the neo-Psychedelic issue of this pfanzine, leading off with an interview with the Fuzztones and articles on the Vipers and the Three O'Clock. There are also articles on a couple of other bands, a Boston gossip column, and the usual record reviews. BANG is more New Wave than punk, and features music that reasonable human beings won't mind on the turntable.

*****

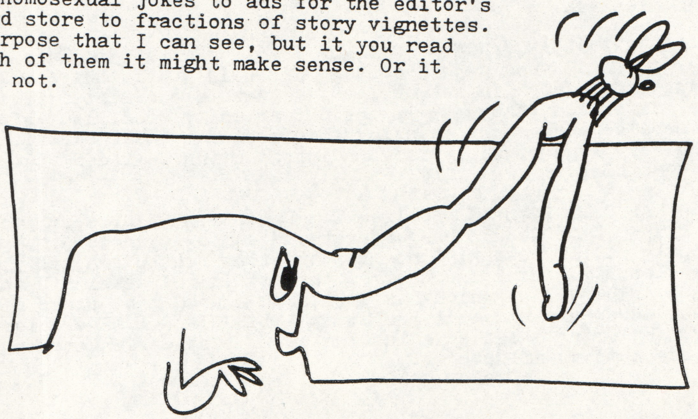
B.A.N.G. NOTES Vol. 5 ($1 from Brooklyn Anti-Nuclear Group, GPO Box 2666, Brooklyn, NY 11202): This is a peacenik publication with a sense of humor, rather than being deadly dull as so many of them are. Not strictly anti-nuke, they're into other grassroots liberal causes like Leonard Peltier's case, the Pledge of Resistance, and so on. This issue leads off with a parody of THE DAILY NEWS, featuring New York leading the economic recovery with 10 million construction jobs after the Bomb is dropped.

*****

THE BOB #23 ($1.50 from PO Box 897, Ansonia Station, New York, 10023): A tabloid pfanzine, THE BOB is well-produced and sticks to music that is likewise well-produced: Aztec Camera, Mitch Ryder, and the Three O'Clock feature prominently in this issue. (They also cover less known groups such as Chain Link Fence and Absolute Grey). This issue has 7½ pages of music reviews -- I suspect they were cleaning out their files, just as I might do this time around.

*****

THE BAG! #5 (50¢ (?) from 1938 Portage Rd., Kalamazoo, MI): A four-page collage of words and images ranging from homosexual jokes to ads for the editor's record store to fractions of story vignettes. No purpose that I can see, but it you read enough of them it might make sense. Or it might not.



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WE FEAR THINGS IN
Proportion to our ignorance of them — Livy, Roman historian (64 or 59 B.C. — A.D. 17).
To allay your fears I'll explain the four must-be-adopted concepts so you won't be ignorant as are 90% of your neighbors (99%) — all reds.
Scrap winnerless wars, fixed wages, unemployment and atheism while adopting a win sheet for defenders, a consensus money split for workers, an all-embracing, year-round playing even age work force and herenow reruns for our afterlives. Send SASE to the ISM to replace ISMS —
BRAINBEAUISM
Box 2243
YOUNGSTOWN — OHIO, 44504

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QUESTION:
If what I'm doing now is a rerun of my past life how can I make a change?
ANSWER:
Who would want to be you if not you? The fact that you exist in this age of mind-boggling break throughs and spiritual longings indicates that you first became you a million years ago more or less. Send SASE to arithmetically and spiritually sound
HERENOW RERUNS
Box 2243
YOUNGSTOWN — OHIO, 44504

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WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES YOUR DAY?
Is it violence in Lebanon, El Salvador, Northern Ireland, Subways, Cambodgia, etc.
ANSWER:
Yes, I have to admit that since W.W.II a peaceful world has not been to my liking. How else can the rest of you discover that we are 100% wrong in four areas which could be described as the basic platform of every country RIGHT, LEFT OR CENTER.
To avoid a world-wide JONESTOWN send SASE to:
4 WRONGS RIGHTED
Box 2243
YOUNGSTOWN — OHIO, 44504

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Besides his own ads, J.C. Brainbeau (author of these gems) will publish yours in his weekly 5,000-circulation ad sheet. Write him for more details on that or on this stuff.

*****

BRAVE NEW NAZIS OF THE INLAND EMPIRE (50¢ (?) from Starhead Comix, c/o Michael Dowers, 3615 Phinney N., Seattle, WA 98103): This is another fine minicomic from the prolific pen of Steve Willis (see last issue's SHOWCASE). This one is a not-very-polite bit of sniping at a political group which is all too prevalent in the Pacific Northwest -- which means that, though their numbers are small, they make a lot of nasty noise. Satire is probably the perfect weapon to be trained on these goons, and this is a perfect example.

*****

BROTHERHOOD TRUTH SHEET Vol. 164, #8 ("Love Offering" from PO Box 966, Castle Rock, CO 80104): This is a small pamphlet from a vaguely Christian mystical group. Beyond the fact that they come out with the usual sweetness-and-mysticism stuff I know nothing about them. There's a whole mess more literature available at prices from 75¢ to 10.00.

*****

BOX OF WATER #1 ($3 from 135 Cole St., San Francisco, CA 94117): Another MAN from out west. What can you say about these damned things, anyways? Well, this one is digest-sized (like FACTSHEET, OK?), about 50 pages, and features an international cast of characters. Some of it seems pretty good, like the sheet of stamps featuring Aleister Crowley. Much of it seems pretty stupid. Then again, I don't understand mail art any better than poetry.

*****

CANADISC Catalog #1 ($1 from Paul Comeau, PO Box 142, Saulnierville, N.S. B0W 2Z0 CANADA): You don't see much Canadia music reviewd in the States, and Paul is trying to do something about that by offering about a zillion records for sale at reasonable prices (about $6 plus postage for the most part) featuring Canadian artists recorded in Canada. He pretty well covers the whole spectrum of music, from fiddle music through cournty and bluegrass to rockabilly, rock and jazz. Drop Paul a line and get in touch for what looks like good music cheap.

*****

CAN-DO Comics ($1 From David Steinlicht, PO Box 3154, Minneapolis, MN 55403): Another black and white comics spectacular from the Minnesota artists clench that has brought us loads of minicomics. This one is full-sized and 20 pages, well printed and for the most part well-drawn. As in any anthology, there are winners and losers -- my bets for the former are David Steinlicht's "Honk" and Bill Fugate's "Batspider", a new and silly superhero.

*****

CAN-NEWS June 1985 ($1 from PO Box 398, Station E, Toronto, ONT M6H 4E3 CANADA): CAN is Canadian Action for Nicaragua, a group which has been aiding the Nicaraguan people since before the Somoza regime was overthrown. Predictably, at the moment they're up in arms over the US trade embargo, but still collecting funds to send and also planning a trip for activists to see the country they've heard so much about. Perhaps they don't focus a critical enough eye on the Sandanista government, but in the lightof our own government's excesses, perhaps they can be forgiven for seeing the U.S. as the bigger villain.

CASSETTE MYTHOS ($3 from PO Box 2391, Olympia, WA 98507): I think what your money gets you is a couple of newsletters on the way to a proposed sourcebook but I'm not positive. Anyhow, these guys are interested in new ways that cassettes can be used to shape popular culture. For example, they list a group which provides plays on cassettes, one part per cassette, so five people can don Walkmen and do the play with no rehearsal. Dozens of contact addresses for musicians, producers, and artists, plus an invitation to become a mover and shaper yourself.

*****

CHEAP TRUTH 12 (SASE from Vincent Omniveritas, 809-C w. 12th St., Austin, TX 78701): A sfanzine that talks about sicence fiction rather than pandering to the fan community. Every so often they put out one of these 8½x14 sheets with serious criticism of SF -- this one focusing on NEUROMANCER and BLOOD MUSIC. If you send for this (and you should) be sure to ask for a copy of Brian Aldiss' tribute to Ted Sturgeon. Also ask about their computer network.

*****

CHEMICAL-OF-THE-MONTH BULLETIN, June (FREE from Kent Chemical Group, 225.469 W. Elm, Kent, OH 44240): Run by the mysterious Chemical Girl, the Kent Chemical Group is dedicated to bringing the wonders of chemistry home to every citizen who is smart enough to get on their mailing list. June is a departure from their usual bright and cheery issues, featuring "The Chemistry of Decomposition" on pale grey paper. Includes a special reference card showing the nitrogen cycle at work.

*****

CIRCLE A IN ATLANTA #12 (Contribution from PO Box 57114, Atlanta, GA 30343-1114): The premier Southeast anarchist zine has recently hosted a conference of anarchists, and this issue contains mostly discussion of what went on there, though there is plenty else. My hat's off to the Circle A group for actually organizing something instead of just talking about it like the rest of us. Most of the rest of the zine consists of reports on various protest actions, including a Die-In and No business As Usual day, which was rather successful in Atlanta.

*****

CITIZEN'S CLAW July 1985 ($1 cash/MO from S.A. Freeman, PO Box 441, Morongo Valley, CA 92256): This Constitutionalist publication has just celebrated its second anniversary and is in better shape than ever. Originators of the "New Nation USA" concept for revitalizing the Constitution (write for more details), lately their energies have been concentrating on ways to show the entire traffic ticket system to be blatantly illegal. I wish them the best of luck.

*****

THE CLOSEST PENGUINS #7 ($1 from 625 A Natoma, San Francisco, CA 94103): CP is a literary magazine without any literary pretensions, if that makes any sense to you. No big fuss about punctuation or art or irony or critical acclaim or any of that bullshit, just emotional stories about ordinary people told in a simple, powerful and direct manner by a staff of ordinary writers. CP is about sharing feelings, about making a slice of life available to the readers. Subscribe and join in with the fun.

*****

COMMON CAUSE July '85 (SASE from Todd Castor, 1501 Billings St., Oxnard, CA 93033): A pfanzine from my old stomping grounds, if there are any FF readers who remember that far back. Nothing flashy, just a couple of pages trying to cover the Ventura County scene -- and it's about time somebody did so, with all the bands out there. I hope this one grows in the future. In the meantime, the price is right. The emphasis is on live music, since most of these bands don't have any vinyl out yet.

*****

CONNECTICUT CONNECTION Spring '85 ($2 from 760 Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT 06119): This is sort of a directory for yuppies in search of New Age stuff to keep them busy in Connecticut, and quite possibly of no use to those living elsewhere. Contact addresses for well-known things like Silva Mind Control, Rolfing and Naturopathic Medicine, as well as more obscure stuff like Firewalking Instructors and The Imhotep Center For Preventive Medicine.

THE CONNECTION #128 ($1.50 from Erwin Strauss, 9850 Fairfax Sq. #232, Fairfax, VA 22031): An apa devoted to philosophical arguing, vaguely centered around libertarian concerns. Around 100 pages of micro-reduced print every six weeks or so. Unlike most apas, TC encourages subscribers as well as contributors, so this is one easy way to see the apa interaction before you join in. On the other hand, the interaction here is not as friendly as in some other places.

*****

CONTRA BAND FOLK WRITE ($5 from 2981 Lookout Pl., Atlanta, GA 30305): This is Kerry Thornley's house organ, an amazing compendium of Discordian posters, writings, rants, scripture, and more. This issue contains many of Kerry's classic "Instructions to the Revolution Over Breakfast" messages as well as much else. Kerry is also soliciting contributions for future issues of Folk Write, with the intent of turning it into something resembling a Discordian apa.

*****

CONTROLLED CHAOS #2 (Contribution from Bob Mrozek, 3034 Highridge Rd., La Crescenta, CA 91214): "A Journal of Personal & Social Responsibility", which translates into another attack on modern capitalistic society. Less boringly intellectual than most such, CC has plenty of poetry and art in amongst the articles on vegetarianism and chaos and such savory subjects.

*****

CONVERGENT REALITIES Vol. 1 #2 ($2 from D. Thome, PO Box 1708, New Milford, CT 06776): Mainly a bridge between SF fandom and the SCA (Society for Creative Anachronism), this may be of interest to those outside of both groups as well. Like to try an astrological analysis of the coming Latin-American war? SCA personality reports? A beginner's look at Tai Chi? They're all in here. The editor is very much interested in submissions for future issues.

*****

CO-OP EXCHANGE SERVICES (SASE from Deralde Carwile, 401 E. Third St., Sweeny, TX 77480): There are hundreds of little publications out there that consist solely of small display ads, mostly from other little publications which look much the same. I'd go nuts trying to review them all. Deralde will, for an appropriate fee, get your ad into a lot of them, at fairly reasonable rates. I suggest asking for more information and samples of a few of the pubs before you decide to advertise here, but it might be worth considering.

*****

CREEPING SOUNDS #2 ($1 (?) from PO Box 352, New Town Branch, Boston, MA 02258): A new pfanzine that still needs to find its own personality. The main part of this one is devoted to interviews with Last Stand, The Brood, and Unclaimed. I don't know what, if anything, is the common musical denominator, but if you do, you ought to get this.

*****

THE CRUCIBLE 2/85 ($5/6 issues from Garry De Young, Spencer, IA 51301-7252): De Young is a poet, politician and general iconoclast, a man convinced that the courts and politicians and lawyers and doctors and clergy are ruining this country for their own benefit. The Crucible is sort of a rough-and-ready compilation of his bouts with the "authorities", presented mainly through reprinted letters to the editor of his local paper. De Young takes as his role models William Lloyd Garrison and Thomas Paine, and though I don't know if anyone is listening to him, someone ought to be.

*****

DADA GUMBO #7 (50¢ (?) from Dale Luciano, 6932 E. Rosewood St., Tucson, AZ 85710): A minicomic featuring the works of a dozen different artists, one or two pages apiece. Due either to sheer luck or high editorial standards, all of the art is well done and some of the comics are even funny. The pick of the litter is the page titled "Things to Avoid Stepping On", featuring a Cute Bunny and Your Aunt Matilda.

*****

DADATA (SASE from PO Box 33, Stillwater, PA 17878): Take a chance on a random selection of the outpourings of this vaguely technocratic posterist project. "Scientific Self-Portrait" and "Madam I'm Atom" would go well on the walls of any office cubicle in America.

DAILY IMPULSE, Vol. 1 #2 ($5/yr from PO Box 90312, San Diego, CA 92109): The successor to the respected POINT-BLANK is looking good after only two issues. They recently participated in a Hard Core Picnic music & anarchy event, and this issue contains photos and reports on it. Also an excellent editorial exposing the farce that was No Business As Usual day. They're also rerunning the "History of Anarchism" from NEW INDICATOR. The San Diego anti-authoritarian community remains vibrant ndaresourceful, and this is an excellent organ for them.

*****

DEADLY CLIMAX #3 (SASE from PO Box 12221, Minneapolis, MN 55412): Another one-sheeter from the clench that brings you NEW NUMBER TWO and MY WIFE, with about as much redeeming value. "All articles written while working for brown photo and being very intoxicated so fuck off". Are these from high school students or what? I'd tell you their area of interest if I could figure it out.

*****

DE PROFUNDIS 160 ($5/yr from LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601): This is the monthly newszine of the Los Angeles Sceince Fiction Society, recently under new management. A newszine is a sfanzine that allegedly concentrates on news of interest to fen. The calendar of local events is the strongest feature of De Prof at the moment, but they're branching out into zine reviews, letters and who knows what else. A sleeper to keep an eye on so far.

*****

DIALOGUE #52 ($7/yr from Brad Ott, 916 Euterpe, New Orleans, LA 70130): "New Orleans Alternative Monthly Newsjournal" continues to put out consistently high-quality issues every month. "Alternative" means they concentrate on anti-nuclear work, the Pledge of Resistance, toxic waste and other current issues. They publish a local calendar of events that makes me wish I lived in New Orleans. This issue contains an extensive list of contact addresses for other progressive publications.

*****

THE DILLINGER RELIC 40 ($1 from Arthur D. Hlavaty, 819 W. Markham, Durham, NC 27701): This sfanzine is a "self-indulgent chronicle of day-to-day trivia", or at least that's what They would like you to believe. Actually, under cover of a seemingly-harmless diary, Arthur pokes fun at damned near everything and comments favorably on Forbidden Topics such as dangerous drugs and football. Part of Operation Mindfuck, the secret Discordian plot to change the world forever.

*****

DISCUSSION BULLETIN #12 ($1 from PO Box 1564, Grand Rapids, MI 49501): This is an apa for DeLeonists, who are a peculiar variety of anti-authoritarians. DeLeonists believe in the workers controlling society through unions, revolution rather than reform, and, apparently, endless bickering. Main topics have included organizing the workplace, the history of the DeLeonist movement, and the prospects for bringing together the various factions of DeLeonists in the country today.

*****

DREAMSHORE 19 ($1 from 618 S. Mitchell St., Bloomington, IN 47401): Published by students at Indiana University, DREAMSHORE is a freewheeling journal of life, art and magic. This issue contains a recipe for pla-doh, a Manifesto from the Committee to Liberate Byzantium, further information on the alternate universe of Melania. Dreamshore celebrates the neo-psychedelic revival by approaching the whole world with child-like wonder and enjoying the hell out of it.

*****

THE DROOD REVIEW OF MYSTERY May 1985 (75¢ from Box 8872, Boston, MA 02114): Just what the title says, guys: a fanzine for the mystery reader, with the emphasis on reviews of current mystery books, TV shows, movies, role-playing games and whatever else fits in. Each issue contains a few long articles -- this time one on Elizabeth Peters' novels and a retrospective on Richard Condon's work --as well as many shorter reviews. The only zine in the field, so far as I know.

THE DUPLEX PLANET 66 ($1.25 from PO Box 1230, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866): David Greenberger used to work at the Duplex Nursing Home, and still visits on occasion. DP consists mostly of interviews with residents at Duplex, providing a look at the world from a viewpoint a few generations back. Most of the issues have some theme; this one concentrates on movies. An innovative idea that stays fresh, thanks to a good choice of questions and the editor's love for his work.

*****

EKOMEDIA BULLETIN - TORONTO #7 ($5/yr from AANN, PO Box 915, Stn. F Toronto, ONT M4Y 2N9 CANADA): The Ekomedia Network is an international anti-authoritarian news service with offices in Europe in Canada. By contacting the Toronto office you can get in touch with all the rest. Most of the news concentrates on two things: state harassment of anarchists and anarchist harassment of the state. Reading EB-T is like reading dispatches from a war zone.

*****

ELITIST ENNUI #32 (SASE from Alex McKale, 812 Clark St. #2B, Evanston, IL 60201): This sfanzine is an apazine in disguise, or an escaped apazine, or something like that, but since it's self-contained that really doesn't matter. Alex is a recently-graduated physicist who blows off steam by discussing the world and the people in it in a series of short vignettes. Topics this issue include AIDS, proposed sequels for DUNE, tutoring biology, and the professional way to say a journal article is full of crap.

*****

EMANCIPATION 62 ($5/yr from AAA, PO Box 840, Washington, DC 20044): AAA is the Anarchist Association of the Americas, not those car folks. This issue is a ten years retrospective on Viet Nam -- everyone else did one so I guess the anarchist press is entitled too. Much of this issue consists of a critical look at the communist and socialist governments in the region, something much rarer in an anarchist publication than in your local newspaper. Overall, a job well done on a viewpoint that hasn't gotten much attention.

*****

FACE THE MUSIC Vol. 1 #4 (PO Box 163142, Sacramento, CA 95816): No price listed, I imagine a begging letter would get you a copy and a buck would make them ecstatic. This is a mail-order used music place, with zillions of records, cassettes, videos, posters and assorted what-not. Prices start at a buck and go up to around $50 for rare picture disks and the like. Send for this, get out your magnifying glass, and sacrifice your disposable income on music, old and new.

*****

THE FAMILIST Vol. 4 #3 (Free from 5324 Sun Valley Dr., El Paso, TX 79924): The organ of the Familist Movement, this one preaches a brand of libertarianism based around the family and children's rights. They look for small-scale solutions to the problems of raising kids and helping them into the world without force or fraud, mostly from a Natural Law viewpoint.

*****

FIFTH ESTATE Spring 1985 ($5/yr from PO Box 02548, Detroit, MI 48202): Now twenty years old, this anti-authoritarian tabloid is still going strong with its vision of a non-technocratic future. The debate with the technophiles seems endless (and probably is); this issue takes a look at biotechnology and responds to another round of letters. They also cover current anarchist news and, perhaps inevitably, look back on the Vietnam war and the anti-war movements that it sparked.

*****

FILK FIESTA ($1 from Paul Doerr, PO Box 1064, Suisun, CA 94585): A "filk" is a folksong indigenous to the SF fan community. Paul is looking to find among these the future music of space travellers, and also interested in making cassette tapes of good filks available. As this is the first issue, he really hasn't gone anywhere yet, but he's bringing a lot of enthusiasm to the field. Those of you into filking might get in touch with him and try to build this one up.

*****

FORCED EXPOSURE #7/8 ($2 from 719 Washington St. #172, Newtonville, MA 02160): This 80-pager pfanzine is really too large and well-filled to do justice to in one paragraph. Of note are the stories, plays and vignettes by avant-garde music folks, including especially Lydia Lunch. Also a million record reviews, live reports, interviews...you need this if you listen to new music at all.

4-PLAY #19 (3/$2.50 from Marcus Cafagna, 327 Hillcrest #8, East Lansing, MI 48823): This is sort of an all-purpose zine. A few book reviews, some record reviews, movie reviews, comic strips, very short stories, drawings, letters...Overall the emphasis seems to be on punk music and popular culture, but it looks like they'll print anything with a little creativity. Features such anti-feminist gems as reviews of the local hookers.

*****

FRAGMENTS Oct. '82- June '85 ($10/4 issues from 146 Jericho Turnpike, Floral Park, NY 11001): These guys just decided to bring their numbering back into alignment with the date by publishing one issue to span the intervening years. For the most part, this is a Georgist zine -- that is, based on the teachings of Henry George, who saw land speculation as the primary evil in the world and proposed a new system of taxation to lead to prosperity. But their writings range over a whole bunch of classical economists and mystics. It looks like they're striving for a synthesis, but I'm not sure of what.

*****

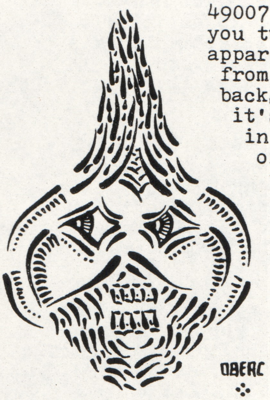
FREE AMERICA NEWS SERVICE (SASE to PO Box 19523, Denver, CO 80219): A Constitutionalist group that acts to get the news out on various court actions and attempts to coordinate help for those they see persecuted by the state. Their number one concern at the moment is Tupper Saussy's case -- Tupper is up on some manner of IRS tomfoolery and is fighting it hard. The net result has been a lot of time in prison for contempt of court and similar stuff, plus harassment of his wife and kids. Ah, life in the land of the free.

*****

FREE BEER PRESS #10 ($1 from PO Box 1513, Kalamazoo, MI 49007): I'm just guessing at the price -- this might get you two or three issues. FBP is a somewhat-juvenile pfanzine apparently aimed at an adolescent male audience, judging from their attitude towards sex. The music is sort of the background for the zine -- there's a punk mentality, but it's expressed in stories and news features rather than in music reviews. Worth a try if you're not easily offended and would like a few good sick jokes now and then.

*****

THE FREEMAN, July 1985 (FREE from FEE, 30 S. Broadway, Irvington-on-Hudson, NY 10533): The Foundation for Economic Education has been putting out The Freeman for a good many years now in an effort to educate people to the principles behind laissez-faire free enterprise. I don't know if they have had any success, but at around 700 pages a year they're certainly persistant. Good analyses of current news items from a libertarian point of view, though not nearly hardcore enough to suit me -- they still believe in working within the system.



*****

THE FREE PHILOSOPHER QUARTERLY Vol. 3 #1 ($4 from PO Box 6145, Bellevue, WA 98008): An academic journal for libertarians and anarchists, FPQ continues to publish interesting (though often hard to read) articles on freedom, justice, and government. The best article in this one is an analysis of the recent pastoral letter calling for more government social programs, aimed at showing where the Bishops went wrong. Past highlights have included discussions and contrasting of Ayn Rand and Robert Nozick, and continuing common-sense economics.

*****

FREE THE COMETBUS 5000 #19 (SASE (?) from PO Box 4726, Berkeley, CA 94704): Pfanzine concentrating on the Berkeley scene, consisting mainly of interviews & articles on local bands. One interesting letter complains about the skinheads taking over clubs and pushing the punks out and implies the punks should get together and fight back, with tire irons if necessary. The editor is trying to get together an exhibit of envelope art from the mails to various fanzines.

*****

FREFANZINE 53 ($1 from Mike Gunderloy, 41 Lawrence St., Medford, MA 02155 -- hey, that's me!): The friendliest libertarian apa around. Produced in full-size type so that you can actually read it, Fref is running about 200 pages every other month at the moment. Ongoing topics include socialism vs. capitalism, pornography, animals' rights, opportunism, and a lot more. Relax in an atmosphere of free lunacy.

FRENZIED BLOODSHED #6 (69¢ from Bloody Mess Pubs, 5523 Montello Dr., Peoria, IL 61614): Another young and restless pfanzine with a layout and printing designed to give you headaches. Less exclamation points and cleaning the typer keys would help a lot. But the content is pretty good, consisting mainly of interviews with bands who somehow made it out to the wilds of Illinois, as well as live and record reviews. Looks like another local scene worth checking up on.

*****

FUDGONG FUNNIES #2 (50¢ from J.P. Morgan, PO Box 78, Keansburg, NJ 07734): Another great minicomic from the Kliban of the underground. No, not cats, but the off-the-wall sort of stuff that you find in K.'s better books. I especially like the two pages featuring Dr. von Bladder -- first with some medical advice and then under attack by some mutant renegade DNA sludge. Now, why doesn't he draw some illos for me?

*****

F.U.T.U.R.E. NEWSLETTER Vol. 1 #6 ($1.50 from PO Box 228, Butte, ND 58723): That stands for "Forming Unity Toward Ultimate Regenerative Evolution", and the publishers are into various New Age stuff. The highlight of this issue is an article by Julie Summers on living well on a near-zero income: under $600 a year with no government money. Other than that, the F.U.T.U.R.E. people are into things like planetary stewardship and eating well.

*****

THE GENTLE ANARCHIST Vol. 2 #3 (Donation from Ed Stamm, PO Box 1313, Lawrence, KS 66044): "Anti-capitalaist, anti-profit, and anti-authoritarian", these folks are also anti-violence, so I don't mind their disagreements with me. This is anarchism from the viewpoint of the individual who just wants to get out of the system and be happy somewhere. They're trying to organize an anarchist community, so if you're interested in buying land next to other anarchists, get in touch.

*****

GREY ZONE (Donation from Students for Peace & Liberty, 235 Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55455): This is the "newsletter of twin cities anarchists", another group that seems to be getting suddenly active. In fact, they're active enough to be setting up an anarchist center & bookstore, holding a benefit concert to pay for it, and so on. So most of this issue is devoted to practical stuff on what needs to be done, though there are some theoretical perspectives as well. I'm glad to see some city with an organized anarchist presence, even if I don't want to live there.

*****

HANDICAP NEWS Vol. 2 #5 ($18.50/yr from Phyllis Burns, 272 N. 11th Ct., Brighton, CO 80601): This is a wonderful networking publication, concentrating on one specific area and covering it very well. Each issue contains dozens of brief news items on new treatments, drug effects to watch out for, support groups, legal actions on behalf of the handicapped, and contact addresses for specific organizations concerned with everything from MS down to the possible side effects of pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine.

*****

HARVEST Vol. 5 #6 ($1.50 from PO Box 228, S. Framingham, MA 01701): A good zine to start investigating the neo-pagan network from. Harvest features basic articles for the beginning pagan on things like rituals, robes and music, as well as contact addresses for a whole raft of other publications. Their letter section has been growing rapidly of late as pagans use it to dispute all manner of issues -- perhaps soon they'll have to spin off a pagan apa.

*****

THE HEATHEN SCIENCE MONITOR ("Subscriptions $4" from Erik Kosberg, 1062 11th Ave. SE #2, Minneapolis, MN 55414): I don't know how many issues that gets you, but at two pages per it should be quite a few. One side has a cartoon satirizing the modern male and a strange short story about lighting a barbecue. The other is mainly filled with a (possibly true) account of the doings of a Mpls. city council member who is too conservative for his own good.

*****

REV. HECTOCOTYLUS HEDDLE (SASE to PO Box 911, Newport, TN 37821): The Rev runs the Church of the Barking Aardvark, a front for the SubGenius Church, and I'm sure he'd be happy to send you some of his wild collages. Whether you'l be happy to see them or not is another question, but you've only 22¢ to lose, right?

HERETIC'S JOURNAL BULLETIN #2 (Free from PO Box 12347, Seattle, WA 98111): HJB is a forum for the idea of a "radical political/spiritual synthesis" designed to make the world a better place in which to live. Editor Ron Heresy draws from traditions and new stuff as it suits him, and this HJB contains his thoughts on May Day, both as seen by pagans and as seen by the international labor movement. He's also starting the HJ FORUM, an apa for in-depth discussion of New Age movements.

*****

HIDE #5 ($2 (MO only) from 363 Queen St. E., Toronto, ONT M5A 1T2 CANADA): HIDE is a multimedia presentation, which means I'll talk more about it later in the Music section, as it consists of a tape and a fanzine designed to go together. This is the "Dementia 5" edition, with a subtext of boy groups and girl groups. The printed part contains lots of pictures of the bands along with lyrics, interviews, and random stuff on the battle between (and within) the sexes.

*****

HIMALAYAN NEWS July/August 1985 (Free from The Himalayan Institute, RR 1, Box 400, Honesdale, PA 18431): This is sort of Yoga for Yuppies, a way to have your tennis and meditate on it too. Basically, this tabloid exists to advertise the classes the institute gives, but it also contains Eastern Wisdom from good old Swami Rama, recipes, and other stuff designed to make you enlightened -- for a price.

*****

HOLIER THAN THOU XXI ($2 or, preferably, the Usual from Marty & Robbie Cantor, 11565 Archwood St., North Hollywood, CA 91606-1703): This monster sfanzine, formerly the bastion of putridity and nothing but, has been sunk in a morass of bickering over fannish issues lately. But the good news is that they're recovering and should be back with loads of sick humor sooner than ever. Steeped as it is in fannish history, HTT is not always accessible to the newcomer, but careful inspection will eventually turn you on to a whole world of in-jokes and infighting.

*****

HOMESTEADERS NEWS #46 ($2 from Sherrie & Norm Lee, Naples, NY 14512): This is the reference if you're even thinking about getting out of the rat race and back to the land. Sherrie & Norm have pioneered the 4-season gardening method that gets incredible yields from the soil, talked about building log homes, found information on home teaching and medical care, and much more. This issue has a special section on the long-term storage of foods by an expert in the area. You're too late now for their annual "Good Life Get-Together", but get on the mailing list now and you'll be ready for the next one.

*****

HOW DO YOU DO A HOW TO DO ($1 from Light Living Library, PO Box 190, Philomath, OR 97370): From the folks who bring you MESSAGE POST comes this pamphlet on how to put out your own fanzine. It's a subject that's been tackled before, but this is the only one available at the moment as far as I know. Good solid advice on what expectations to have, how to get started, choosing a subject, advertising and more. The only hole I see is the lack of advice on mailing which, given the speed with which the Post Office changes things, would probably be out of date long before the rest.

*****

THE INDICATOR, Summer 1985 (25¢ from Box 541, Orlando, FL 32802): Another Southeastern radical zine. The two lead articles in this issue are anti-prison and anti-landlord, which will give you some idea of their perspective. The only thing I really take issue with here is the section "Science Stinks", using carefully selected quotes from non-scientists to try and brand all science as a form of mysticism. On local issues, The Indicator does a darned good job.

*****

INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY, May 1985 ($8/yr from SIL, PO Box 338, Warminster, PA 18974): SIL is the Society for Individual Liberty, a middle of the road libertarian group that tries to keep track of the entire movement in its newsletter. Sketchy though they are, IL's News in Brief and Calendar are one of the few ways to get information from a variety of libertarian sects that exist today.

*****

INDUSTRIAL WORKER, June 1985 ($4/yr from IWW, 3435 N. Sheffield, Chicago, IL 60657): 80 years old, the IWW is still trying to organize workers into "One Big Union" for the purposes of a socialist revolution. I don't take their program seriously, but the IW is a good source for worldwide news of the labor movement, seen from an unremittingly pro-labor point of view.

INK DISEASE #9 ($2 from Thomas Siegel, 4563 Marmion Way, Los Angeles, CA 90065): Another mammoth pfanzine -- 72 pages of tightly packed music. Feature groups are the Circle Jerks, Mad Parade, Raw Power, Pop-O-Pies and Metallica, so you can see this isn't exactly Easy Listening. INK DISEASE is one of the few pfanzines that manages to publish clear photos, and plenty of them. They also had the guts to draw the line and not print publication reviews when they ran out of room. Good music here, and plenty of it.

*****

INSIDE HOAX ($5 from the LDFs, PO Box 7742, Salt Lake City, UT 84107): What we have here is a parody of another well-known fanzine which politeness keeps me from mentioning. The price may or may not be for real; I've only seen part of an issue, but I'm sure the publishers will send you your money's worth eventually. This "Newsletter of Travesty and Fecundity" is funny as hell, particularly the blast from the legendary Ivan Stang (high-ranking SubGenius) directed against the bozos who think imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Also watch for a line of postcards for SubGenial recruiting.

*****

INSIDE JOKE #39 ($1 from Elayne Wechsler, PO Box 1609, Madison Square Station, New York, NY 10159): This "Newsletter of Comedy & Creativity" continues to be of rocky quality, but with more than enough to recommend it every issue. Strong continuing features include columns by Anni Ackner, Mildred Neptune ("Quantum Courtesy") and Ho Chi Zen, mythical proto-Discordian. Weaker points are the short fiction and shorter poetry. But as its a group effort, one must expect high and low points in each issue. I usually get a few belly laughs out of each issue.

*****

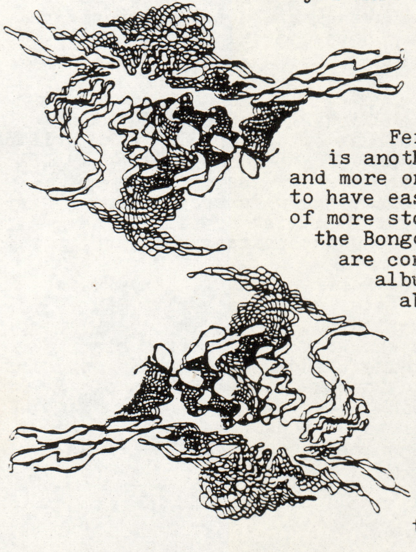
INSTANT GRATIFICATION #3 (the Usual from Jerry Kaufman, 4326 Winslow Place N., Seattle, WA 98103): A sfanzine apparently devoted to sfanzines. They seem to be attempting to get fandom past the latest round of feuds by a two-pronged approach: ignore the feuders and mention zines that don't feud. Short and (mostly) sweet.

*****

JAG, Vol. 23 #7 (SASE from R.S. Jaggard, MD, 10 E. Charles, Oelwein, IA 50662): Dr. Jaggard is determined to have a free enterprise system in this country, and he sends out occasional newsletters to anyone willing to read them. He's active in both health-care and Constitutionalist circles, arguing that physicians can provide good service without government dole and that the income tax is a fraud, among many other things.

*****

JERSEY BEAT #21 ($1 from Jim Testa, 418 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087): Yes, Virginia, there is new music in New Jersey. A good portion of the stuff mentioned here is "mod", music based on one particular type of British Pop from years ago. If you know more than that you're ahead of me. But there are decidedly non-Mod bands here as well: Samhain and Minor threat, to name one pair. Don't get stuck in Jersey without this zine!



*****

JET LAG #55 ($1 from 8419 Halls Ferry Rd., St. Louis, MO 63147): JL is another pfanzine that focuses less on punk and more on music in general. Lately they seem to have eased their major label coverage in favor of more stories on new and unknown groups like the Bongos or Times Beach. The record reviews are consistently the best part of JL, covering albums even your record store might be able to get you.

*****

JND #1 ($1 from PO Box 470, Van Nuys, CA 91408): A pfanzine devoted to electronic and other technological music. This issue contains articles on a couple of bands performing all-electronic stuff and sthe start of a history of electronic music. Also sponsoring an "Unlistenable Music Contest" to find the worst that's out there.

JOURNAL OF ERICKSON'S STAGE 6½ #7 (SASE to 328 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 or 718 Clymer, Philadelphia, PA 19147): A creative journal pubbed in two cities thanx to the miracles of modern science, JOE'S reminds me a little of the CLOSEST PENGUINS, except that JOE'S includes reviews of music, books and movies as well as short stories. They're looking for new writers -- "anything" reasonably interesting will be pubbed for only $1 a page. This magazine is sort of self-psychotherapy dedicated to being a safe & happy young adult, or something like that.

*****

K NEWSLETTER (Free from PO Box 7154, Olympia, WA 98507): K is a company that puts out very strange little cassettes that border on being music (see our music reviews section). Ambient music, a capella vocals, white soul and other strange things abound. The newsletter announces new products as well as providing a list of things that are already available.

*****

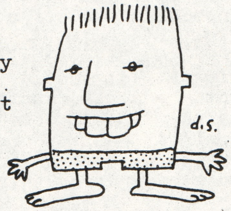
KICK IT OVER #12 ($1.50 from PO Box 5811, Station A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1P2 CANADA): They say to write if you can't afford the cover price of this anti-authoritarian quarterly. Good discussions of what anarchy means today and how we should deal with society -- I really appreciated the article headlined "Anarchy means responsibility -- not spraypainting people's garages". The KIO staff does a good job of tackling new problems from the persepctive of anarchist history instead of rehashing the same old shit.

*****

LA CROSSE POTPOURRI 1880-1884 ($1 from Shantyboat Press, PO Box 2372, La Crosse, WI 54601): Doug Connell has taken an interest in the history of his town, and this booklet is one of the results. It is made up of stories from the La Crosse papers of 100 years back, with some annotations and pictures of major buildings of the city. A variety of crime log type stories, horses running loose and steps from the march of progress (124 telephones in town!) combine to show that the papers were perhaps more interesting at the time.

*****

LGLC NEWSLETTER #10 ($2 from PO Box 953, San Francisco, CA 94101): LGLC are the Libertarians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns, trying to introduce the gay community to the libertarians and vice versa. The articles in this particular issue seem to be aimed at giving moral support to those newly admitting their gayness and to provide news to those who have been out of the closet for a long time. Not too much of overt libertarian interest here.



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LIVING FREE #30 ($1.25 from Jim Stumm, PO Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): This is Jim's "Personal Journal of Self Liberation", and it concentrates on ways to become personally free without having to change the whole world first. Vonu -- the art of living unmolested in the wilderness -- is one big concern here. So is living in the city on little income by scavenging and being innovative. Pirate Radio and Offhore Living are other subjects that have come up from time to time. Much of LF is reader-written, so Jim is after people with new ideas.

*****

LOBSTER TENDENCIES EAST #3 (75¢ from Michael Kaniecki, 141 Ridge St. #8, New York, NY 10002): Another journal of just plain folks writing. It comes from the same roots as CLOSEST PENGUINS but the writing in LTE seems more personal and more confessional -- as if the only way the writers can survive in the world is to share their darkest and most embarrasing feelings with anyone who might buy this. Contains a few graphics as well, but they're decidedly less interesting than the prose.

*****

THE LOG CABIN #77 ($1 from George L. Roberts, Rt. 1, Box 419, Fincastle, VA 24090): This is the newsletter of Mensa's BTTL SIG -- that is, Back To The Land Special Interest Group. Which is to say, people out homesteading and farming and people who wish they were. Mensa membership is not a requirement for joining. Reader-written, LC contains lots of advice from those who are already on the land and lots of questions from everyone. Farming, building, keeping busy, buying land, veterinary knowledge and more wend their way through its pages. A good way to get in touch with other folks planning moves to a quieter and simpler life before you do it yourself.

LOST AND FOUND TIMES 16 ($3 from Luna Bisonte Productions, 137 Leland Ave., Columbus, OH 43214): This one is meant to be art, or perhaps "aht". Pages of silly little avant-garde poems interspersed with silly little avant-garde pictures. Fortunately, the whole thing is saved by the inclusion of two pages of Blaster Al Ackerman discoursing on how not to hunt a job. Not quite worth the $3 cover price, but enough to make this worth looking over if a friend has a copy.

*****

LUNA CITY PRESS VOL. 1 #1 ($16/yr from Paul Doerr, PO Box 1064, Suisun, CA 94585): This intends to be "the daily newspaper for all Luna, the planets, the moons, the asteroids...and all the ships at space". But for the moment it's coming out monthly or so here on Earth. This issue is about evenly divided between a digest of space and technology news and a set of fictional letters from an early Luna settler to relatives on earth. Strictly for the starry-eyed.

*****

MAKA DUDI, K.S.C. (10¢/page from 5511 Blue Bluff Rd. #27, Austin, TX 78724): A major figure in the SubGenius pantheon of modern-day saints, Maka learned his posterist skills in darkest Africa before he escaped to the relatively modern environs of Texas. Zillions of pages of stuff are available; send him some money, specify words or graphics, and wait for a transplant from the heart of darkness. You won't be disappointed. Unless you're terminally Pink.

*****

MAKING TYME! #1 (50¢ from 131 W. Passaic St., Maywood, NJ 07607): A pfanzine devoted to the Mod scene across the country and around the world -- wherever they can find one. Reviews of Mod music, plenty of leftover sixties slang (or "6t's", as they would say), and a column on where to get yourself a groovy little scooter so as to look super-cool. Get the picture?

*****

MALICE #9 ($1 from PO Box 241022, Memphis, TN 38124): Hardcore punk pfanzine with an editorial presence that is outspoken to say the least. The page-long blast against the bozo who tried to beat people up at one local show is truly amazing to behold. There is absolutely no music that your mother would even tolerate mentioned in this zine, just loud and obnoxious stuff. Lots of record and tape reviews, but the local scene is also covered.

*****

THE MALE CHAUVINIST NEWSLETTER #3 ($1 & 2 stamps from 879 Park Ave., Perris, CA 92370): No attempt at being socially redeeming in this one! Articles on how to keep your woman in line, why a real man needs a shot of booze at the end of the day, and how male chauvinism can save our culture from the wimps and sissies. They threaten to stop after #5, and I think this is a fine idea.

*****

MANGLED EFFORTS 3 ($1 from PO Box 1365, Madison,WI 53701): A sort of combination pfanzine-and-MAN for the concerned young nutcase. This issue is heavy on music, particularly band interviews (mostly by mail, though the best one was done in person with Tetes Noires), but for the future they promise an all fiction, art, and poetry issue. Heavy current of anti-authoritarianism runs through the graphics and non-music articles.

*****

MAPLE LEAF RAG 12 ($1 from Garth SPencer, 1296 Richardson St., Victoria, BC V8V 3E1 CANADA): This is the best (probably the only) Canadian newszine around. A newszine is a sfanzine which concentrates on news of interest to fen, and this one has plenty of that: gossip, coming conventions, new book reviews, club reports and fan history. As with a lot of Canadian zines, this one is well-printed mimeography. Of course the news is mostly from the Great White North, but US fen will still find plenty of interest here.

*****

MARK AND PHIL'S GUIDE TO EVERYTHING #2 ($1 from 2314 N. River Dr., Moorhead, MN 56560): Everything means for the most part music in this pfanzine. Fairly small, but then how large a scene can they have in Moorhead, wherever it is? Besides the usual news and reviews, Mark and Phil are working to set up places for travelling bands to stay, setting up punks to write to each other, and working on the production of a flexidisc with their local bands.

THE MEMORY HOLE #7 ($1.25 from PO Box 94, Long Beach, CA 90801-0094): This is "The Libertarian Revisionist History Apa". In other words, it is a place for discussion for folks who feel that much of history was invented by governments for their own purposes. Unfortunately, this activity also attracts anti-Semitic shitheads as well as those with a sincere interest in history. Not doing too well right now -- worth getting only if you want to join in.

*****

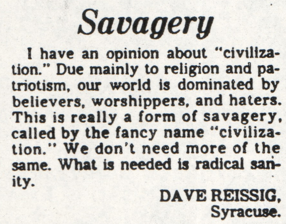
MESSAGE POST #18 ($1 from PO Box 190, Philomath, OR 97370): A newsletter concentrating on Portable dwelling and light living -- not camping forever in one place, but not eternal vagabondery either. Written by the subscribers with a rotating editorial staff, the best part of MP are the continuing practical hints on things like cooking, solar power, storing goods, microfiche and other things of interest to those living lightly. Also feature pamphlets of past articles and extensive leads to other periodicals of interest.

*****

META-SCOOP, Vol. 2 #6 (75¢ from 416 Hill Ct., Hurst, TX 76053): Freewheeling communication about the nature of reality and what can be done about it. Not proponents of any particular philosophy, the editors and contributors wander in and out of such subjects as Cosmic Consciousness, the nature of Power, home birthing and poetry about quarks. They recently announced a sub rate of $10/yr but no rise in single-issue price; send a buck if you can afford it.

*****

THE MONTHLY INDEPENDENT TRIBUNE TIMES JOURNAL POST GAZETTE NEWS CHRONICLE BULLETIN #31 (SASE from 2510 Bancroft Way #207, Berkeley, CA 94704): Shorther than its name but much funnier, TM...B is one of my favoriet Berkeley little mags (and there are a lot of others!) This issue features snippets from rejected supposedly-humorous submissions, commentary on a military training manual, and adventures of the Bone Family (lovable skeletons) on camp out.



Savagery

I have an opinion about "civilization." Due mainly to religion and patriotism, our world is dominated by believers, worshippers, and haters. This is really a form of savagery, called by the fancy name "civilization." We don't need more of the same. What is needed is radical sanity.

DAVE REISSIG,
Syracuse.

*****

MORE HUMAN FRENCH FRIES ($1 from Mike Z., PO Box 40832, Portland, OR 97240): Another batch of controversial handwritten pfanzines from an experienced Portland editor. Some people write compulsively, and Mike decided after writing six zines that he'd better send them out. Here they are. Grafitti-like in layout and content, these pages talk of music, sex, and French Fries, amongst the Rubberman comic strips. "There is no real proof that Charles Manson is not the Second Coming of Christ".

*****

MY WIFE #4 ($1/3 issues from PO Box 19012, Minneapolis, MN 55419): The single-sheet "newsletter of music and buttocks". One might add juvenile humor and smartassery to that description, but perhaps it would be redundant. The editor is busy selecting his audience by offending every other man, woman and child in the country. Hey, if you want record reviews mixed in with asshole jokes, go right ahead and get this.

*****

NEOLOGY Vol. 10 #2 ($1 or the Usual from ESFACAS, PO Box 4071, Edmonton, AB T6E 4S8 CANADA): The club sfanzine of the Edmonton Science Fiction and Comic Art Society, this one is the most enthusiastic clubzine I've seen. Of particular interest in this issue are a letter, short story and list of contact addresses from another SF club -- in Zavgorodny, Russia. Comic, convention, book and movie reviews and a vibrant letter column wrap this zine up in a nice package. And of course the printing is impeccable.

*****

A NEW IRON COLUMN #V ($2 from 1728 W. Ball #4, Anaheim, CA 92804): Very angry anarchist-communist zine from the punk hotbeds of Orange County. Under the banner of the Creative Anarchists Network, the editors attempt to draw together a variety of anarchist traditions with one common thread: power for the oppressed and oppression for the powerful. Prisoncrats and pigs are not people and deserve whatever they get; political prisoners and terrorists should be treated more kindly. Mostly too violent for my tastes, though sometimes full of engaging rhetoric.

NEW LIBERTARIAN #14 ($2.50 from 1515 W. MacArthur Blvd. #19, Costa Mesa, CA 92626): One of the largest circulation libertarian zines left, NL plugs revolution via the Counter-Economy, a black market that is to bring the state to its knees. But who cares about that, when in these pages you can find Robert Anton Wilson, Kerry Thornley, Richard Onley and other luminaries of leftwing Crazy Libertarianism, dedicated to freedom via fun? Serious stuff lately has included a sneering analysis of the Yuppies and a stirring debate over natural law.

*****

THE NEW NUMBER TWO #5 ($1/3 issues from PO Box 12221, Minneapolis, MN 55412): Another in the recent influx of small and silly rags from people with nothing better to do than write down any old words on paper. Some music reviews, thoughts on T&A television shows, vaguely obscene ads and tremendously uninspiring letters.

*****

THE NEWSLETTER #40 (Free from Mark Ziesing, PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226): Mark is a bookseller and sometimes publisher in the SF market. He carries a lot of first editions, numbered and signed books, and that sort of thing, as well as the special items he has printed himself. Prices range from $3 or so on up with very reasonable shipping charges (like Free for $25 on up). I haven't had occasion to buy from him but he certainly seems reliable enough about getting the catalog out.

*****

THE NOISE #38 ($8/yr from 74 Jamaica St., Jamaica Plain, MA 02130): Now this is a respectable pfanzine! Beautiful halftoned photos, clean crisp print (but not typeset...yet), and writing that deserves this kind of treatment. Concentrates on new bands in and around Boston. Where else could you possibly get the full story behind PAT & THE SNOW KANGAROOS, not to mention MOOSE AND THE MUDBUGS? A good balance between gossipy in-jokes and objective interviews and reviews.

*****

NOVUS #25 ($1 from PO Box 152, Honolulu, HI 96810): Another pro look pfanzine, this one from the other end of the country. NOVUS covers music, any music its staff happens to like. This leads to Sade alongside the Del Fuegos, Salem 66 rubbing shoulders with Melle Mel, and other odd combinations. There's a definite aura of "just having fun" about this zine, but the nifty paper, beautiful photos and clean layout and production make it look good as well.

*****

NOW GOD #1 (about $1 from 8300 Del St., Anchorage, AK 99502): I get more pfanzines from Alaska in the summer than in the winter, probably because they can get to the mailboxes then. For a first effort this is pretty damned good. Interview with The Accused, record and tape reviews and one of the funniest comics I've seen in a long time combine to make this pleasant evening reading.

*****

NRG 24 ($4/yr from Dan Raphael, 6735 SE 78th, Portland, OR 97206): Poetry, graphics and short stories on the cutting edge of the confusing art movement. Most of these have no real effect on me (random gobs of punctuation strewn across the page, for example), and some of the rest leave me feeling slightly nauseous. Too bad, because the editor and writers take this stuff damned seriously. Maybe there's no poetry in my soul. To be fair, there were a couple of good things here, notably "The Cacti Are Painting the Bones", a bit of neo-surrealistic imagery.

*****

NU-ARTIST COMIX #1 ($2.50 from Warning, PO Box 102993, Anchorage, AK, 99510): I guess this is the "Alaska" page of this zine. The 4-color (though mainly b&w) cover wraps itself around a lot of fine little underground strips. Some favorites: Urbia, a story of young punk angst; Skate and Destroy, featuring kids against the nuke industry; and Suicidally Depressed Cartoonist Comix "by the late B. Warr". A definite zine for the future.

*****

ODIS #3 ($1 from Paul Vandrick, 172 Capp St., San Francisco, CA 94110): A magazine of fictional shorts and short fiction coming from a peculiar cultural milieu: that of San Francisco bike messengers. (No, they don't deliver bikes; they deliver on bikes). Actually some of these might be true stories, but if so, it's hard to tell. My favorite is "Skate Punks in Hell", a post-nuclear survival piece. But the reportage of the magazine's namesake character in his destruction of fashion is pretty good too.

OPTION B2 ($2.50 from Sonic Options Network, PO Box 491034, Los Angeles, CA 90049): Information on a staggering variety of new, experimental, and marginal music. The lead articles all have something to do with the letter "B" (Billy Brag, BOMP magazine, Boston's underground scene), but the record and tape reviews cover hundreds of releases from all over the alphabet. Very eclectic,with lots to interest anyone. The fanzine coverage is inadequate, but after all, that's what this zine is for.

*****

OVERTHROW Vol. 7 #1 ($1 from PO Box 392, Canal St. Sta., New York, NY 10012): Tabloid newspaper from the good old Youth International Party, OVERTHROW is aging relatively gracefully. Heavy on things like the Green movement, Central American support and anti-technocracy, the Yippies are also still working with creative action to disrupt things. For example, this issue reports on a (stink)-bombing of the Pacific Stock Exchange and gives phone numbers for Nazi computer bulletin boards so that leftist hackers can cause trouble for them.

*****

OWN THE WHOLE WORLD #9/10 ($? from 812 Stadelman Ave., Akron, OH 44320): This pfanzine includes a C90 tape, so send at least two or three bucks if you want to get a copy. The tape I'll cover later in the music section, but let's take this space to say that the zine is very impressive. The record reviews are chatty and informative, the Kraut interview is reasonably well-done, but the big plus is John Crawford's (of Baboon Dooley fame) list of top 20 records ever. And the tape is incredibly full of stuff and fun to listen to.

*****

PC NEWSLETTER 6 ($5/6 issues from 1725 E. 115th St., Cleveland, OH 44106): Newsletter on how to run a small (i.e., college-sized) radio station and contact point for a music network. If you record or produce music, you should get PC and look into their plan for sending your record to their network of stations. If not, you might be interested in the reviews and articles. This issue covers some ideas on running the music department at a small station and continues a fascinating look at the pros and cons of ASCAP/BMI-type royalty arrangements.

*****

PHALLOS, June 1985 ($5/yr from 583 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102): Newsletter of the St. Priapus Church, a group who run a gay rescue mission and preach salvation via sex. Though occasionally they've run into skepticism & hostility from more established churches, they do seem to be doing good things, and PHALLOS is fascinating reading (though not for the easily offended). Lately they've been spreading the word against circumcision, and this is a good source for more information and networking on that particular subject.

*****

PIGTOWN PUGNACIOUS Vol. 1 #3 (Contribution from PO Box 13068, Gainesville, FL 32604): This new local radical/anarchist zine has progressed to the point of yelling at people for their apathy, so perhaps serious activism isn't far behind. Actually, it's encouraging to see a calendar of events and suggestions for non-cliched protests from whatever quarter. Boston does not, as far as I know, have anything like this, so the folks in G'ville can feel proud of themselves for getting it started.

*****

POPULAR REALITY ($2/6 issues from PO Box 1593, Kalamazoo, MI 49005): PR has improved immeasurably since its first few issues, maturing into a genuinely interesting Discordian tabloid. This issue features Bob Black on the failings of anarchists, Blaster Al Ackerman on Neoism (it's spreading!), a page from the Sits at AAA, and even a huge photo spread covering No Business As Usual day. They've managed all this without raiding their price, making PR one of the True Bargains of our times.

*****

P.O.R.T. Vol. 2 #1 (65¢ from PO Lockbox 828, Boston, MA 02199): The full name of this "funzine" is Provocateur of Random Thought, which pretty much wraps it up. Much of this zine is the standard pfanzine fare, record and group reviews & interviews (well, no record interviews: there's an innovative idea for someone!), but there are other things that make it stand out. Number one is the interview with Bob Black, the Last International (who has since vanished). Another is the Letter from Bernard, making an apocalyptic trip into a mailbox near you. Check it out.

POSITIVE FUTURE NETWORK #3 ($10/yr from Kathleen & Bill Madden, 553 Ivy Ave., Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410): With the goal of translating visions into action, PFN has put itself into the networking market with pretty substantial early issues. They concentrate on community-activism methods for producing change: cheap TV production and HealthVote, a system for getting community input on health care, for example.

*****

POSTWAR mini-issue 6 (send stamps to PO Box 6613, Fullerton, CA 92631): Originally a music project (I think), Postwar has expanded into alternative media, providing posters, postcards, leaflets, little zines and matchbook covers with a variety of anti-authoritarian sentiments. They bring a tremendous amount of energy to the idea of changing the world, and though success is far away, their persistance is heartening. They're also looking for more material to publish.

*****

POTBOILER #8/9 ($3.25 from Lari Davidson Books, Richards Rd., Roberts Creek, BC VON 2WO CANADA): Well-done SF literary magazine. Your money gets you 72 pages of mostly short stories, with a few well-drawn fantasy comics and a column of random opinions from Bruce Kalnins. The stories are well-illustrated and for the most part well-done. I enjoyed Steven Frederick's "Lucky to Be Alive", about a man who gambles with Lady Luck, and Annette Crouche's "Daily Special", a story of conspiracy at the lunch counter.

*****

THE PRAGMATIST Vol. 2 #6 ($1 from PO Box 392, Forest Grove, PA 18922): A libertarian periodical taking a new approach to outreach, THE PRAGMATIST feels that practical arguments will sell the cause of liberty better than moral ones. Accordingly, they devote their pages to explaining the benefits of freedom and taking pot shots at the current system. A wonderful example of this latter is the article from Dale Lowdermilk, founder of NOT-SAFE, about the deadly hazards posed by water abuse.

*****

PV NETWORK NEWS May 1985 ($15/yr from RT2, Box 274, Santa Fe, NM 87501): Your subscription to this solar power networking zine includes membership in the PV Network, which qualifies you for bulk discounts on solar-powered products. If you're not to the buying stage yet, it's a great source of informational leads to manufacturers and dealers, as well as containing technical articles written especially for PVNN. Isn't it time you thought about solar power?

*****

PYROTECHNICS #36 ($3/4 issues from Gail & Jamie Hanrahan, PO Box 261687, San Diego, CA 92126-0998): A sfanzine oriented towards hard sf and real-world science and technology. Included in this issue are an explanation of how to contact the editors via usenet, an article on star-gazing that discusses stellar evolution, book reviews and a somewhat-argumentative letter column. High point for me was the page of lightbulb jokes based on Larry Niven's Known Space series. Whhops, almost forgot -- also available for The Usual.

*****

R.Ⓐ.D. #30 (87¢ from PO Box 867, Morro Bay, CA 93442): A pfanzine with some sort of anarchist social conscience, this issue is divided between music and atheism for the most part. Reviews of the former and nasty quotes from the Bible as part of the latter take up most of the pages here. Of more interest is the listing of peace groups from someone apparently associated with the Peace Punks in Britain. Marred by very poor printing.

*****

RANDOM WRITINGS #1 ($1 cash or $2 check from Jim Stumm, Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): The publisher of LIVING FREE brings forth a new journal, dedicated to talking about anything at all he wants to discuss. The premiere issue includes a discussion of whether inalienable human rights exist, an attempt to distinguish two types of libertarian (which he didn't call kill-and-eat-the-poor vs. starry-eyed anarchists), and a chronology of the writing of the New Testament.

*****

RAUNCH-O-RAMA INFORMATION SHEET (SASE from Brad Goins, PO Box 2432, Station A, Champaign, IL 61820): Brad is interested in that genre of music called "industrial" and related art forms. This sheet contains his musings on some recently released industrial and otherwise noisy bits of music. Well-written extended reviews of interest to anyone who can stand this sort of music.

REALITIES #4 ($5/12 issues from 2745 Monterey Hwy. #76, San Jose, CA 95111-3129): A reduced-print, 11x14 poetry broadside. This issue features the works of Will Inman, who might be famous for all I know about poetry, but you couldn't prove it by this stuff. The bulk of the stuff is in three sets of poems;"Last rains, last songs" is reasonably effective post-nuclear angst, but the others are strictly forgettable.

*****

ROLLMAG #9 ($1 from Kenneth Maue, PO Box 5001, Mill Valley, CA 94942): "The magazine of advanced nonsense" is a bit more interesting with this issue. Contents consist of records of a psychological experiment (noticing red objects), a letter on dubious etymology from the editors of the Oxford English Dictionary, and a page of random prose. Not a great value, but a possible source of new mantras.

*****

THE RUNESTONE 52 ($7/yr from Asatru Free Assembly, PO Box 1754, Breckenridge, TX 76024): A pagan zine specifically for those who honor Asatru, the religion of the Norsemen and vikings. They take their religion seriously, filling the pages with runic lore, discussions of the Gods and Goddesses and so on. The AFA also sponsors Althings and lesser festivals and activities.

*****

SAMISDAT Vol. 42 #4 ($15/500 pages from Box 129, Richford, VT 05476): Sort of an activist small-press review zine, I guess. Contents consist of reviews interspersed with thoughts on controversial subjects (like enviornmental struggle or abortion) and followed by poems & stories. I'd find the reviews to be the most useful part of this one (the stories left me cold), were it not for the fact that some of them are pretty far off the beam: for example, they seem convinced that FACTSHEET FIVE is a sfanzine, reviewing only SF material. One wonders if they read it.

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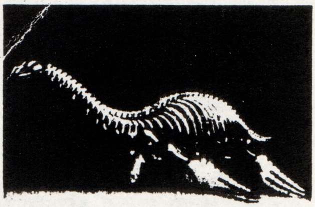


SCAVENGER'S NEWSLETTER #17 (60¢ from Janet Fox, 519 Ellinwood, Osage City, KS 66523): "A marketing co-operative for the sf/fantasy/horror writer with an interest in the small press". Mostly dedicated to tracking the markets, which is something Janet does well. Also features reviews of many more literaty mags than FF does and thoughts on writing for publication.

*****

SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW #55 ($2.50 from Richard E. Geis, PO Box 11408, Portland, OR 97211): SFR is a legendary award-winning sfanzine, but on the assumption that there are other people who've never seen it, I'll review it anyhow. Most of SFR is reviews: short stories, books, other sfanzines and occasional whatnot. But this is only about a third of the magazine in bulk, with the rest being taken up by columns and interviews (by and with pro SF writers) and letters. Oh, this review is really quite inadequate. If you have any interest in SF (not necessarily in fen), then buy a copy and see for yourself.

*****

SHOOT #10 (about $1 from Carol A. Schneck, PO Box 101, East Lansing, MI 48823): I'm getting a suspicious amount of mail from East Lansing of late. This pfanzine is probably the best in the bunch, being lively and not stereotypes. Interview with Black Ideals, review of Tetes Noires, a report on the state of punk in Greece (struggling but there), and, best of all, a couple of pages of cartoons and thoughts from the multi-talented Barb Warr: recipes, cartoons, and smart answers for questions punks get asked too often (like "How do you sleep with your hair like that?").

*****

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC #26 (75¢ from Industrial Union Party, PO Box 80, New York, NY 10159): Terribly sincere, SR is dedicated to a vision of the future where the evil blood-sucking capitalists have been disposed of and everyone lives in peace and harmony, lah-di-dah. I shouldn't belittle them so, because they really do try to propose new ways to do things in between their attacks on capitalism, but much of the magazine seems dry and doctrinaire to me. Sure, exploitation is a serious subject, but how many articles on the evils of capitalism does one need to get the idea?

SOUND CHOICE #2 ($2.50 from PO Box 1251, Ojai, CA 93023): A pfanzine remarkably similar to OPTION (not too surprising as they both descend from the late OP), SC manages 72 pages of eclectic small print this time. Much of this issue is geographical, featuring music from Burundi, Belgium and Belize, along with interviews with various music notables and lots of reviews. Good leads to everything: records, tapes, video, radio, zines...A simultaneous exploration of all the frontiers of music.

*****

SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER June 1985 ($5/yr from John Harllee, Rte. 10, Box 52A, Florence, SC 29501): Sort of a READER'S DIGEST of stories that make the government look stupid or unnecessary, SLM also features occasional articles of interest. For example, Robert Brakeman has been writing about allegedly true incidents of liberation from foul governments in foreign lands. A consistent way to get a laugh at the expense of the state.

*****

SPEW AND REVIEW #4 (SASE from Bob Konshak, 1490 E. Ryan Ave., Maplewood, MN 55109-4441): Single sheeter dedicated to nothing in particular. The editor reveals his desire to be the first male to do a feminine hygeine commercial, talks of music by Billy Bragg, suggests "resurrection man" (go look it up) as a career for the 80's and prints various one-liners and Deep Thoughts.

*****

SPORADIC DROOLINGS #2 ($1 from Dave Burokas, PO Box 1092, Kearny, NJ 07032): Easy-to-read new pfanzine covering mainly the NY/NJ scene. Lots of pages of interviews and a fair number of record reviews, and looking for more stuff. The photos come out OK, the reproduction is better than most, and the writing is pleasant. Dave says he plans to cover more 60s revival stuff in the next issue; this one is already fairly strong on garage bands.

*****

SRAF 89 (Contribution from PO Box 1751, San Francisco, CA 94101): The Social Revolutionary Anarchist Foundation is back at last, with the group's Bulletin being put out be a new group of dedicated suckers from the West Coast. Most of the stuff in this issue of this apa is pretty old; hopefully its publication will spark SRAF members to write more in the near future. SRAF publishes any writings it is sent; in general, the members are anarcho-collectivists of one stripe or another.

*****

STRIDER COMMENTARY July 1985 ($12/yr from Lorne Strider, PO Box 554, Laytonville, CA 95454): A new libertarian magazine designed to ridicule government and expose the fact that, as they put it, "The Emperoror has new clothes". Lorne Strider takes aim at the California legislature for establishing a commission to study self-esteem, at the US Congress for depending on Hollywood for farming testimony, and at a couple of other targets. Useful pro-liberty arguments on a variety of current topics.

*****

SUBURBAN VOICE #15 ($1.50 from Al Quint, 13 Portland St. #7, Lynn, MA 01902): Another of the Boston pfanzines, SV packs a lot of info into their pages by the simple expedient of using micro-print. Al promises greater legibility in the future, so don't let this throw you off. Full of interviews with major (and not-so-major, I guess) punk acts, notably the Dead Kennedys, who still have things to say after probably 10,000 other interviews. Extensive record reviews and a good selection of live show reviews.

*****

SURREAL ESTATES #2 ($1.25 CASH from Revo, PO Box 23061, Knoxville, TN 37933-1061): "What I choose to call surrealism," says the editor, "others might term dada, performance art, bulldada, avant garde, punk, anarchism, abstract, humor", which may or may not cover all the bases. Generally consisting of looks at the world from a new perspective, this issue of SE is made up mostly of words with few collages; however, for the future Revo promises a variety of bizarre formats at no increase in price. This is your chance to get in on the ground floor of a new artistic movement, or the revival of an old one.

*****

TACTICS OF THE MLL Vol. 2 #3 ($1 from Mike Gunderloy, 41 Lawrence St., Medford, MA 02155): This is the 'house organ' of the Movement of the Libertarian Left, an all-purpose front group for far-leftwing anarcho-capitalist entrepreneurs. Four pages of thoughts on the world and how to run it in a free market, together with some crackpot conspiracy theories. We hope someday to promote the underground (counter) economy.

TAROT NETWORK NEWS Spring 1985 ($4 from 2860 California St., San Francisco, CA 94115): As one might expect, this slick-paper journal deals with Tarot cards and related subjects in all their varied manifestations. For the most part, TNN reports on new Tarot decks and other divining cards, and new ways to lay them out and read them. But there are other things here; theoretical stuff linking the Tarot to a new, three-dimensional Tree of Life, for example. Of value probably mostly to serious students of the Tarot.

*****

TAX LOVERS TRUTH LETTER Vol. 2 #5 (SASE from PO Box 22431, St. Louis, MO 63126): Hard-line Constitutionalists, the TLTL folks concentrate most of their efforts on exposing the hoax of the Federal Reserve and the worthlessness of our currency. And of course they put some of their energy into showing how silly the IRS is. High point of this issue is a letter from the IRS claiming that the dollar in your pocket is not a dollar; their best product is a series of TWE dollar bills with Constitutionalist info on the back.

*****

THIS LITTLE MOTHER IS ABOUT TO CRACK UP (50¢ (?) from Kansas College of Collage, PO Box 8187, SM, KS 66208): Enigmatic little collage booklet the size of a minicomic. Features high-contrast b&w closeups of a bearded man spouting Cosmic Questions over the centuries. Send stamps or money for other equally confusing projects from the KCoC.

*****

THE THOUGHT Vol. 5 #2 ($3/3 issues from The Philosopher's Guild, PO Box 3092, Orange, CA 92665): Journal of amateur philosophical essays, fronting for an organization that sounds more grandiose than it probably is. Not that there's anything bad about shooting for high goals, but it comes off as a bit pretentious. Anyhow, major topics of discussion here are alcoholicism, the wonderfulness of freedom of thought, and the futility of party politics. Anarchistic leanings.

*****

THOUGHT CRIME #3 (Contribution from PO Box 57104, Atlanta, GA 30343-1104): Coalition journal of leftist and liberal thought from a group of dedicated folks down South. Though there is some staff overlap with Circle A, the emphasis here is more on stuff having an immediate effect on people and less on political theory. Excellent lead article on MOVE, along with coverage of anti-aparthied and anti-draft efforts, the situation in the Phillipines, and much more.

*****

THUNDERBOW 91 (60¢ from Church of Seven Arrows, 4385 Hoyt St. #201, Wheatridge, CO 80033): A synthesist neo-pagan zine that remains an excellent networking source for the field. T-Bow contains articles from a variety of traditions -- Amerind, I Ching and Scientologist, for example -- as well as short bits on current events of possible pagan interest (e.g. a story of agriculture possibly being used 38,000 years back).

*****

The very best of TOUCH AND GO ($3(?) from Your Flesh, PO Box 3107, Minneapolis, MN 55403): T&G was a high-energy, raw-edged, insult-the-world pfanzine during its 22-issue lifetime. Well, the bad news is that you missed it. But the good news is that the staff of YOUR FLESH has put together this anthology in a limited edition for your reading pleasure. A few years worth of thoughts on the scene from the one and only Tesco Vee, rude photos and drawings, obscene comics, record charts and reviews, this one will certainly upset you and probably enlighten you as to what's behind "punk".

*****

TRANET #37 ($30/yr from PO Box 567, Rangeley, ME 04970): From the "Transnational Network for Appropriate/Alternative Technologies" comes TRANET, a magazine that makes networking make some sense. The basic idea is to put third-world needs together with first-world technology and come up with solutions that are workable without a braod technical base. TRANET does this on levels ranging from the personal to the institutional, and their quarterly newsletters are a rich source of contacts in other countries as well as the U.S.

*****

THE TRUTH Vol. 7 #7 ($8/12 issues from Irene Stephenson, PO Box 3893, Chatsworth, CA 91313): A newsletter dedicated to using biorhythms to analyze character and explain world news. To me this stuff looks like astrology or Tarot: you get back precisely what you put in. The TRUTH is also involved in setting up people with compatible pen pals and, of course, selling biorhythm character analyses to anyone who will pay.

TWIST #3 (50¢ & SASE from PAT GAULT, 2381 Capital SW, Battle Creek, MI 49015): Pafanzine with a new look created by judicious use of images from an old Eisenhower & Nixon campaign flyer. Lots of snide collage (and a few snide drawings) here, as well as a bit of stuff about music. Hmmm, maybe this isn't really a pfanzine, as the satire seems to take front seat to the music. Whatever, it's fun.

*****

TWISTED IMBALANCE #3 (47¢ from Art Deccom, 1053 Melrose St., Bowling Green, OH 43402): Collage and posterist zine featuring rambling screeds against social injustice and other stuff. Includes some satire which borders on being funny, as well as some Situationist subverting of published images, including (sacrilege!) characters from PEANUTS. The layout and printing need work, unless he's making a statement about eyestrain.

*****

THE UNICORN Vol. VIII #7 ($10/yr from The Rowan Tree, PO Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A neo-pagan publication with a particular interest in herbal affairs and poetry. The latter I can't seem to judge; the former looks safe to me, and I haven't an opinion on using, for example, fenugreek to invoke the Horned God. Being put out by a "Mystery School", the UNICORN can also be your passport to various courses in esoteric folderol.

*****

UNSOUND Vol. 2 #2 ($2.50 from 801 22nd St., San Francisco, CA 94107): "Unsound is focused onto the hard edge of experimental art and music -- the edge that most consider subversive." I'm willing to grant the the territory: the art, particularly the performance art, in this mag is much farther out than FF ever gets. Articles on Controlled Bleeding, Karen Finley, Negativland, Ellen Zweig and Xerox Sutra Editions, along with excellently done contact columns and reviews. 72 pages, well-made and fun to read. Go for it.

*****

UPRIGHT OSTRICH Vol. 4 #6 ($3 from PO Box 100787, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310): A premier Constitutionalist publication, dedicated to publicizing oddball truths on everything from the 16th Amendment to Tesla's secret weapons. Also a primary source for networking within the Constitutionalist movement. UO is distinguished from the pack by concentrating on innovative solutions to major problems like farm debt instead of focusing on the narrow tax-resistance aspects of the movement.

*****

URGL-ORP #10 ($1 from Nicole, 36-2300 Ogilvie Rd., Gloucester, ONT K1J 7X8 CANADA): A pfanzine that covers occasional bits of music in between the anti-political, pro-people stuff. Nicole is particularly interested in animal rights, and publicizes vegetarian recipes and horror stories of vivisection. Also in this one are a couple of interviews and a bit on redefining cities. A voice crying out against the system.

*****

VERSION 3 ($2 (?) from Bob Moore, PO Box 20193, Dayton, OH 45420): A zine of the avant-garde, ostensibly devoted to music and poetry but without much of either in this issue. But the other stuff is pretty good: excerpts from an interview with Jud Yalkut, a guide to the writings of Richard Meltzer, and impressions of a Borbetomagus performance, along with bits and pieces of the editor's journal (or is it fiction?). The price is a guess; you might inquire first.

*****

VICTORIAN VAULT Vol. 1 #9 ($1 from White Knight Productions, PO Box 656, Wautoma, WI 54982-0656): A publication for pedophiles that depends entirely on verbal descriptions (no hard-core porn; in fact, not even soft-core porn) and photos from the public domain: Sears catalogs, movie promos, newspaper pix and so on. Occasionally of value for the reprinted articles on Free Speech issues; otherwise it doesn't seem to be socially redeeming. But does it have to be?

*****

MICHAEL VOODOO (SASE to PO Box 57232, Washington, DC 20037): A highly persistant and prolific posterist, Voodoo keeps my mailbox full of obscure (and sometimes obscene) mail art at all times. Besides the xerox madness within, the envelopes are usually festooned with stickers and collages outside, along with clippings from random magazines. Self-portraits, Nazis, strange sex and mail art have been among his topics of late.

VOX POP #18 ($8/yr from PO Box 8161, Brewster Sta., Bridgeport, CT 06605): Connecticut has music. It also has this tabloid monthly pfanzine to cover it, which may put it ahead of most other states. VP mostly covers the reasonably big name bands, but they don't shy away from hardcore punk: this issue features a page on the Minutemen. Then again, their musical range is large, including also the Bongos, U2, and Depeche Mode. The comics are getting better all the time, and the album reviews are plentiful without being overwhelming.

*****

WARNING #13 ($1 from PO Box 102993, Anchorage, AK 99510): It may not be "Alaska's only alternative music publication", as the cover claims, but after two years WARNING is certainly the most impressive one. A lot of new music makes it up there and Warning reviews most of it, as well as records and tapes from bands not brave enough to get to Anchorage. A regular feature is coverage of skateboarding/snowboarding (depending on the season), with occasional frightening pix of people hanging upside-dow in mid air.

*****

WCSB (22¢ stamp from Room 956, Rhodes Tower, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH 44115): This is mainly the program guide for the CSU radio station. Being some distance from Ohio, I can't tell you what they sound like, but the guide itself is well done. There are a couple of articles of more general music: one a paean to networking, and one an editorial complaining about the lack of good shows in the Cleveland area club circuit.

*****

WDC PERIOD (75¢ from PO Box 43311-9-311, Washington, DC 20010): Newsprint pfanzine from the nation's capital. Amazingly enough they seem to be pretty well apolitical and only interested in the music. Well, I suppose the lesbian comix might be considered political. Anyhow, they review lots of music and live shows, and complain a lot about assholes who make life difficult for punks who prefer music and dancing to beating each other over the head with chairs. Interview with Peter Bagge, deranged cartoonist of WIERDO, in this issue.

*****

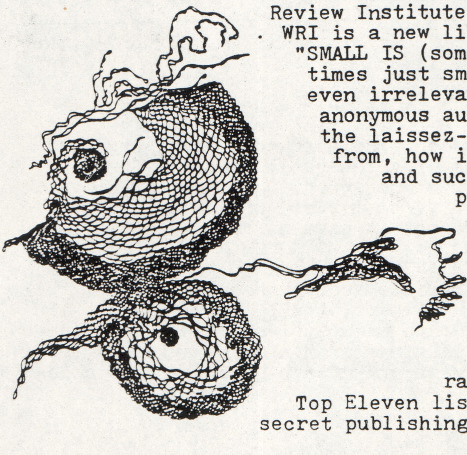
THE WEEKLY CENTRAL SCAB ($1 from Jason Marsden, 701 Emerson, Sheridan, WY 82801): This is a reprint edition of the complete run of the WCS, a "newspaper" published by an enterprising Jr. High student in America's heartland. Influenced by the sinister Dial-A-Rumor (307-672-5437), Marsden soon had his entire school confused by the subtle SubGenial and plain silly humor. But alas, a poorly-planned brush with libel laws resulted in termination of the project, and this alone remains.

*****

WENDY SUE GAFFINOVITCH BECOMES A NUN (50¢ (?) from PO Box 413, Cambridge, MA 02140): I'd call this a minicomic only it seems quite free of any experience with the mainstream minicomix industry. Drawn in a style somewhat more primitive than, say, Lynda Barry's, this (one of a continuing series, I gather), tells of WSG's decision to become cloistered. The point, if any, escapeth me.

*****

WRI NEWSLETTER #2 (SASE (?) from Western Review Institute, PO Box 806, Chino, CA 91708): WRI is a new libertarian group whose credo is "SMALL IS (sometimes) BEAUTIFUL, and sometimes just small and inept and plain; maybe even irrelevant." In this newsletter the anonymous author explores the truth behind the laissez-faire free market: where it came from, how it worked, what was good about it, and such. Also a few leads to other SIB projects.



*****

WEST VIRGINIA SURF REPORT #1 (SASE from PO Box 663, Dunbar, WV 25064): Most of this single-sheeter is devoted to a geopolitical analysis of the American classroom, but the flipside is filled with genuinely random thoughts, ranging from music Top Eleven lists to an explanation of the secret publishing project that produced WVSR.

WHOLESOME #4 ($1 from Dave, 630 S. Spring Ave., La Grange, IL 60525): A pfanzine with a juvenile slant which actually appears to me quite a bit. They don't act juvenile, but have an article on the quality of today's Slinky (poor), and a couple of pages of comix reviews, that sort of thing. Other highlights are SamHain and Crucifucks interviews and plenty of record reviews.

*****

WIGGANSNATCH #15 ($1.25 from PO Box 20061, Seattle, WA 98102): The pagazn zine that answers the question, "Is masturbation a magical act?" (Yes, say the readers who responded to the survey). But, says editor James Moore, enough of this nonsense. Starting with #16, WS is "an alternative realities literary magazine", which means he's looking for interesting short fiction of some relation to paganism. If you think you can write it, send an SASE for his contributors' guidelines.

*****

WILLPOWER #4 ($1 from Bill Callahan, 6009 Camelback Ln., Columbia, MD 21045): This is "The Replacements magazine", the Replacements being a punk group who you may never have heard of. While fan mags dedicated to a particular group aren't a new idea, this is one of the few punk ones that I've seen. Plenty of inside info on the band, suppressed liner notes for their album, interviews with the band, that sort of thing. The only real drawback is the nearly-illegible comic strips cluttering up some pages.

*****

WONDERLAND #10 ($2.50 from David Techter, 2520 N. Lincoln #25-B, Chicago, IL 60614): From the "Lewis Carroll Collectors Guild", this is a networking publication for pedophiles. No pictures, but plenty of line drawings of young naked people. Most of the written contents concentrate on reviewing picture books available through the mails at exhorbitant prices.

*****

WORKERS' DEMOCRACY #16 ($1.25 from PO Box 24115, St. Louis, MO 63130): Another publication looking forward wistfully to the days of a socialist society. The quality of this issue seems a bit rocky to me. The high point is an article on the longshoreman's union in Spain, which is running on rank-and-file democratic principles with much success. The low point is a long article discussing the Marxist conception of the Asiatic Mode of Production. In between there are cartoons, poetry and oral history meant to stir the workers.

*****

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GARTH #12 (The Usual from Garth Spencer, 1296 Richardson St., Victoria, BC V8V 3E1 CANADA): This is Garth's diary-zine, which is saved from the traditional tedium by being only about 1/3 diary, the rest being letters, con reports, and whatnot. The whatnot in this issue includes a couple of articles condemning Canadian imperialism, taken from a newspaper in Texas. Lettercol discussion has concerned the economics of fanpubbing and the interactions of the sexes.

*****

YOUR FLESH #8/9 ($3 from Peter Davis, PO Box 3107, Minneapolis, MN 55403): This pfanzine is amazingly well done, right down to the flexidisc from the aptly-named heavy metal group Bludgeon. That's a darned shame, because there aren't any more left. But get your money in now for a copy of the next one, which will likely contain the same mix of record reviews, interviews, live act pictures, and incredibly disgusting comic strips. Go for it.

*****

MICHAEL ZIESING BOOKSELLER (SASE to PO Box 806, Willimantic, CT 06226): Together with his cohort Alison Meyers (proprietor of Everyday Books), Michael offers a variety of hard to find and interesting items by mail. He concentrates on anarchy, ecology and other radical themes; she's into feminism, poetry and women's history. They stock records (a few), stickers and buttons as well as books.

*****

ZINE ORGY (71¢ from 1501 NE 102nd St., Seattle, WA 98125): An intriguing new pfanzine concept. You've seen compilation records with cuts from a bunch of groups -- well, this is a compilation pfanzine, put together by a bunch of different editors. With five editors, the editorial presence is understandably high, but it's good stuff: thoughts on Publishing, on Issues, on Music, rattle around outside the Husker Du article and the zine reviews and the nice little short story that closes the whole zine off. I hope they do it again.

STRAGGLERS

THE AMERICAN PATRIOT, June 1985 ($1 from 2422 E. Indian School Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85016): Straightforwardly anti-Communist magazine. They deplore the National Educators Association for trying to sell the Soviet viewpoint to kids, refer to Nuclear Times as a "radical magazine", and warn that Russia has a 6-1 advantage in nuclear arms.

*****

THE BEWILDERBEAST ($2.25 from Dennis Fischer, 366 N. Spaulding Ave. #12, Los Angeles, CA 90036): A zine devoted mainly to strange and low-budget films, with an occasional bit of SF-related material thrown in (for example, the appreciation of Ted Sturgeon in this issue). Features movie reviews, articles on things like special effects, and interviews. This issue includes a Vincent Price interview, a catalog of deservedly-forgotten sixties films, and an interview with COMPANY OF WOLVES director Neil Jordan.

*****

THE BVI GROUP NEWSLETTER Vol. LV #3 ($1 from BVI-Central, PO Box 44025, Omaha, NE 68144): Another new thing under the sun: the franchised fanzine. For $6 you too can become a BVI franchisee and publish your own edition of the newsletter. This one contains screwy imaginary news stories, cartoons,collages and feature stories on the BVI staff. As yet no clear purpose for this zine has emerged, but it is getting funnier.

*****

BVI-WEST, August 1985 (SASE from PO Box 13733, Denver, CO 80201): As above, so below. This is another member of the BVI group of xerox newspapers. Featured are a review of FIRST BLOOD PART III, reviews of imaginary TV shows, and other insults on the integrity of the American media. My copy also came with a free imprinted pen, for reasons unknown.

*****

CHRISTIAN ANTI-COMMUNIST CRUSADE July 1, 1985 (SASE (?) from PO Box 890, 227 E. Sixth St., Long Beach, CA 90801-0890): I don't know how this dinosaur ever survived, but its name tells it all. Hardline anti-Red religious folks. This issue details Gorbachev's inaugural speech, pointing out how he says he'll support world revolution and slaughter the bourgeosie. Also discusses in detail the plan of the Commies to come in and kill us all. Sees commies behind everything, including the move for South African divestment. Funny.

*****

THE COMIX THAT ASKS Y? (75¢ from Fatalistic Funnies, 2910 W. Ashland Ave., Muncie, IN 47304):Minicomics with a vaguely political slant and a nasty view of the world. #1 features Reagan nuking everything, the introduction of Phatal Philbert, and an essay on God's existence. #2 continues Philbert's adventures and presents a poster for "Chile: Vacationland paradise!" Pretty funny stuff.

*****

CYNICALMAN 11 (25¢ & a stamp from Matt Feazell, PO Box 5803, Raleigh NC 27650): Further adventures of my favorite minicomic superhero. Matt draws in a minimalist style that allows lots of action, even on his tiny pages. In this issue, CM faces dismissal from the Board of Superheroes and is forced to take matters into his own hands. CM plays with levels of reality (reality?) in a matter that would be reminiscent of Douglas Hofstadter were that not too pretentious for something costing a quarter.

*****

THE DILLINGER RELIC 41 ($1 from Arthur D. Hlavaty, 819 W. Markham Ave., Durham, NC 27701): After 8 years of publication, Arthur's Discordian diaryzine is still going strong. Arthur generally discusses life, literature and stranger subjects (like football), all the while smarting off at every opportunity. The letter column is always interesting, including as it does other people smarting off back at him. Worth a look if you want your mind bent.

*****

INSTEAD OF A MAGAZINE Vol. 5 #36 ($6.50 for 4 issues from Lysander Spooner Society, PO Box 433, Willimantic, CT 06226): Wide-ranging anarchist zine that draws together thoughts from a lot of people loosely united by their anarchism. This issue leads off with a couple of articles on the MOVE bombing in Philly (which has received surprisingly little discussion in the anarchist press), and goes on with a continuation of thoughts on Taoist anarchism , source listings, and thoughts on personal anarchy.

THE JUSTICE TIMES May 1985 ($2 (?) from PO Box 562, Clinton, AR 72031): A monthly tabloid for the tax resistance wing of the Constitutionalist movement. Concentrates on recent court actions, notably those in which "tax patriots" have won (at least temporary) victories. Their coverage includes all the major cases I've heard of, and they have ads from dozens of other organizations and legal-help outfits.

*****

THE LITTLEST UNICORN #1 ($7/yr from The Rowan Tree, PO Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A new publication by the editors of THE UNICORN, this one is aimed specifically at children & parents rather than at pagans in general. I would put the age group at somewhat under ten. Stories, poems, and a few articles about exploring oneself and the world, based on an unstated philosophy of living in peace with nature. It'll be interesting to see how this grows.

*****

NOMOS, May/June 1985 ($3 from 9857 S. Damen Ave., Chicago, IL 60643): This libertarian zine is growing well and looking good. More a real magazine than a fanzine, it consists for the most part of serious articles of libertarian interest. In this issue they renew the debate over national defense, discuss the early development of the US oil industry, and contrast the class theories of Marx and Nozick. As always, they print a selection of thoughts from other libertarian journals, with plenty of contact addresses. For any serious libertarian.

*****

SHAVERTRON #23 ($9/yr from PO Box 248, Vallejo, CA 94590): After 40 years, the investigators of the Shaver Mystery are feeling blue that it's still being ignored. Before UFOs was Shaver, with his ideas on the hollow earth inhabited by the superhuman Deros, about pictures inside of rocks, about various other wierd stuff. Shavertron still discusses these things and more. Brain transmitters over Sweden, people hearing voices, and a bit of Shaverian fiction by Don Webb are the high points of this amusing little zine on the fringes of our reality.

*****

And that's it for the reviews (at last!). Now I'll use a bit of this space to pass on a few odds and ends of interest:

* First, and most importantly, I screwed up the address for St. tentatively, a convenience in the last FF (see the Publisher's Showcase section). His real address is Box 382CR, Baltimore, MD 21203. My apologies to all who got their mail back, please try again.

* The address for MY WIFE was also wrong, but it's corrected above.

* FINAL MORNING EXTRA (PO Box 210208, San Francisco, CA 94121) is FREE and looking for posterist contributions. They promise to print anything, subject only to space limitations

* Mark Sceurman, 100 Berkeley Ave., Bloomfield, NJ 07003 writes to announce the formation of DOO/DAH, The Bonzo Dog Band Fan Club. Write him for more details.

* Purple Cactus Records, 1974 Collingswood Rd., Columbus, OH 43221 is working on an LP compilation called "Beasts From the East", for eastern-US garage/60's/psychedelic bands. He wants submissions on cassette.

* According to the letters column of JET LAG, INDEPENDENT PUBLICATIONS has gone belly-up, so don't send them any money.

* THE GNU'S LETTER has definitely ceased publication.

* If anyone knows a guy name of John Phillips, he sent me a buck for FF but didn't include his address.

PENNED IN

by Shane Williams

If you'll remember last issue we reviewed a cassette-only compilation of psychedelic garage bands. America is filled with bands reviving fuzz guitar, farsifa organs, and grungy vocals. But in Australia the 60's punk psychedelic sound has been going strong for over a decade. When London's 76-77 brought recognition to punks all over, the Australian bands like The Saints and Radio Birdmen were offended when asked if they'd been influenced by the Sex Pistols. They had been influenced by the same bands who influenced the bands that later influenced the pistols. In other words, bands from the Standells to Iggy and the Stooges, the 60's punks. One of the niftiest parts of the Australian scene is the acid-damaged band names, much more inspirational than American band names like the Vipers, the Fuzztones, and the Pandoras. Check out this list: Celibate Rifler, Inca Babies, The Flower Pot Men, The Screaming Blue Messiahs, Lime Spiders, Mushroom Planet, Beasts of Bourbon, New Christs, Melting Skyscrapers, The Died Pretty, The Triffids, Wild Dogs & Turkey Bones, Olympic Sideburns, Acid Drops, Happy Hate-Me-Nots, Tall Boys, The Screaming Tribesmen, Painters and Dockers, Fungus Brains, Wet Taxis, Corpse Grinders, and Play With Marionettes. This doesn't even take into consideration the other demented Australian bands that have made a name for themselves that I don't feel like lumping in with the neo-psychedelic crowd: Birthday Party (RIP), and Scraping Foetus Off The Wall, and Hunters and Collectors, for instance.

One of my very favorite Australian bands has a more mundane name, Scientists, and they are a deranged combination of the 60's punk soundwith the icy cool sound of Suicide (a NY city two-man band who antagonized audiences in the late 70's) and with a definite Creedence Clearwater taste to the songs. Some of the Scientists, combined with some of the better-known (in America) Hoodoo Gurus, are in Beasts of Bourbon. Forget about the American cow-punk bands -- Beasts have got to be heard to be believed. Check out their LP with songs like "Ten Wheels for Jesus".

Write to Au-Go-Go Records (GPO Box 542d, Melbourne, 3001 Victoria, Australia) and send them 2 IRC's for a catalog -- or check out the import shops -- and whatever you do, don't forget the Saints who are still making great albums. Their singer Chris Bailey has one of the greatest voices in rock'n'roll.

*****

C.D. Presents. I don't know what the "C.D." stands for but I do know what their record label stands for: diverse music and plenty of determination to get it heard.

Ever since their first releases over two years ago, they've been advertising heavily in fanzines and being generous with review copies (as they were with us). Now that much of their product is no longer "hardcore" it is fitting that they should be getting exposure in more than just hardcore punk fanzines.

They are best known for two hardcore compilations, Volumes 1 and 2 of Rat Music For Rat People (with volume 3 in the works). These are filled with the best known acts likeD.O.A., Black Flag, Dead Kennedys and others who've made a name for themselves. C.D. serves up live cuts that have been cleaned up in the studio so that they resemble alternate versions rather than live material. These samplers are perfect for novices in punk music and mandatory for hardcore collectors, but they are by no means the most interesting releases on C.D.

My personal favorite is the raucous hardcore band, Tales of Terror. They have an "insanabilly" version of "Hound Dog" and other paeans to both 'billy and metal music, all done in hardcore fashion. This band from Sacramento shares my cynical views, to quote the singer, Rat's Ass: "What you do is try to get away with as much as possible and make sure you have a good time doing it."

Also in the punk rock vein are The Avengers. They were one of San Francisco's seminal bands, with an EP produced by the greatest of the Sex Pistols being their only legacy for their existence in 78-79. Well, somehow C.D. got hold of a bunch of their material and the rights to press it. (This may be arguably true, since Penelope the singer recently noted in FEMZINE that she wasn't getting a penny out of the band's new enthusiasts). So all of the Avengers stuff is now on vinyl and a live LP is expected.

D.O.A., a Canadian hardcore band who have also been around since the 70's, but who are still going strong, put out a greatest hits package on C.D.

Getting on to the new diversity in their output we find a formerly radical punk band, Poison Girls, licensing their latest release to C.D. It's an LP called Songs of Praise. They have a female singer who is now 47 years old; their last English-only releases, quite a few since '79, have all been in the angry Peace Punk mode. The lyrics are still radical but the music now hearkens back to some of the stuff Vi must have grown up on. Very different.

Then there's seductive sax-ery in the form of Sax Talk by Norman Salant, who has played with Romeo Void and gives them their comparison with Roxy Music.

Punk/reggae/soul/ska music by the Offs, their First Record, has been released some years after it was originally recorded, a similar scene as with the Avengers material.

Contrarily, the hot one-man punk band Billy Bragg, a brand new phenomenon on the British charts, has his LP on C.D. with a new one coming out. His music is as close to folk as to punk due to the sparse instrumentation. If you like Pete Seeger or acoustic Elvis Costello or you can imagine Joe Strummer of the Clash with just his guitar then check out Brewing Up With Billy Bragg.

C.D. also has released some of their local synthesizer outfits. They waver between industrial, gothic gloom, and arty progressivism.

Patrick Miller is an artist who also calls himself Minimal Man, and who has his second LP, Safari, out now. It is both industrial and arty.

Fade to Black have Corridors of Gender and it is gothic and progressive with an almost martial sound to the drum and even the lyrics. Fighting the battle between the sexes perhaps?

Also in this category are Crawl-Away Machine, Moev, and the live Savoy Sound compilation album.

C.D. has some of this music available on cassettes. They also offer posters, songbooks, t-shirts, an Avengers video and a Tales of Terror skateboard. Their prices are reasonable and they give away mystery albums with any purchase over 20 bucks.

Quite an outfit. Write 'em and check 'em out. Any outfit that sent FACTSHEET so much cool music is de facto cooler than shit.

(CD PRESENTS, 1230 Grant Ave. #531, San Francisco, CA 94133)

*****

FORCED EXPOSURE (719 Washington St. #172, Newtonville, MA 02160; $8 for 4 or $2.50 for one): What is the difference between me and the guys who write for FE? Not too much really. I know I'm a poor writer so I expect reviews and options just hanging on by the seats of their pants to enough intrinsic value to get printed, the guys at FE know they are the absolute coolest writers anywhere and that you might have enough worth to read their zine. Maybe. The hell of it is they're right. These guys are the Illuminati of punk. This zine contains features on the best music of various types. It contains the destructive writing of the most literate people involved in the best music. It contains some of the sickest prose and attitudes to be found anywhere, making Bukowski look like a nursery school primer. This zine both gives and takes away. It is good and must be worshipped by numerous poop and pee dog ceremonies hanging up carcasses of all the singers who have ever wittingly trashed "I wanna Be Your Dog". Caveat Emptor! The brilliance is exceeded only by the hubris. If you feel inadequate after reading the new FE (finally out after more than a year!) just remember that the writers and musicians in it feel inadequate all the time or they would never summon the demons that light matches to their collective asses. All of my favorite music is encountered here.

REASONS FOR LIVING (74 Beach St., Jersey City, NJ 07307 -- inquire for availability): This zine is a possible one-off -- with a little encouragement it could continue. It doubles as a term paper for the editor's journalism class but there is nothing academic about it. This is pure "for the love of music" writing, with the editor and other contributor friends of his writing eloquently and at length about the mucis nearest their hearts. Such as: Wire, the Rolling Stones, The Creation, XTC, the Valvet Underground, and Dumptruck -- also articles with a wider scope than one particular group. Definitely write Jim about this one and see if there are any left.

NON-STOP BANTER (c/o Debbie Novak, 94th Ave. & 167th St., Orland Park, IL 60462; $6 for 4): A brand new zine that claims they're going to talk about music you won't hear talked about in other places and then proceeds to review and feature bands that are in dozens of other alternative publications like Love Tractor (an interview) and Husker Du, Bongos and Velvet Underground reviews. Still a decent publication with room to grow.

TERMINAL (Box 2165, Philadelphia, PA 19103; Sample $1.50 or 6 for $7.50): A must get. Newspaper format, in-depth coverage. Flexidiscs often accompany this one. Not much generic hardcore but this is still a "hardcore" publication in the sense of its intensive coverage. #8 also has a long talk with author J.G. Ballard.

FINAL UPDATE (PO Box 901, Arlington, VA 22216): This zine has a great story about a one-man wig-out punk rocker and his meeting with some rednecks. This short story is better writing than you'll find in lots of professionally published tripe. A real human-interest story with romance and everything.

L.A. ZOMBIE (PO Box 31, 3208 Cahuenga Blvd., W.L.A., CA 90068; $1.50): Fantastic photos of standout bands. It used to be almost strictly a photozine but the latest issue has a long interview with Legal Weapon, an LA punk band who just disentangled themselves from a major label when they discovered what was expected of them.

HARD TIMES (PO Box 924, Maywood, NJ 07607; $6 for 6 or $1 & stamps for sample): This zine is on some of the glossiest paper this side of Reynolds wrap. A few interviews, a few record reviews, and a proportionately large amount of ads. Still a good value considering the glossy photo reproduction. An emphasis on hardcore with the editor's personal favorite of '84 being crossover artists like Husker Du or The Minutemen.

TREES AND FLOWERS (Hall Flats, Crimpleshaw, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, England -- a few IRCs?): This English zine is dedicated to the miners who were still striking when this issue came out. Besides the dedication and a few of the questions asked in interviews this zine focuses on the music, not on politics. Some local info, some reviews and interviews with Iconoclasts (all-female punk band), European Toys, Uproar and other groups I've never heard of.

KICKS (c/o Niall, 45-47 Cattle Mkt, Ipswich, ENGLAND): With notices like "completely debauched" and "non-stop trash" right on the front cover this xerox zine lets you know not to expect uplifting sentiments. Instead it turns out to have a curry recipe, coverage of a local soccer match noting the insults exchanged between the opposing fans, instructions on making homebrew cider, and plenty of serious and comical musical coverage.

UNITE AND WIN (c/o Luc Taymans, 81 Rue de Dragon, 1640 Rhode Saint Genese, BELGIUM): The theme here is punks and skins unite. In Europe there is often rivalry between skinheads who tend to right-wing views and punks who tend to left-wing views. But this zine tries to cover the various bands equally, as well as covering lots of bands from America and Canada. In fact the zine is international in content and features a great cover by Vince Rancid, who used to do the Ohio zine SLAM.

RAISIN'ELL (5 Welburn Ave., Leeds, West Yorks, LS16 5HJ, ENGLAND): Virtually all pfanzines have listings for other zines and tape compilations and demos. This zine has more than most. 90 minute tapes for just a pound. Double sets for the listed price of 3 bucks American! And all of the scads of unknownand semi-known bands are probably as good as the few English bands that are well-known on these shores. This zine is well worth sending for if you'd like to contact bands, zines and tape outlets on the English punk scene.

THE AMBASSADOR OR INFILTRATOR? (Harry Harrison, 173 Vernon Rd., Aylestone, Leicester, LE28GG, ENGLAND): The most politicized of the lot, with pages of anti-meat info, animal Liberation Front, anti-nuke stuff, and semi-mystical New Age stuff on Stonehenge. All this plus band info and Harry's attempts to interview people like butchers and beauty contest models.

NOT YET DECIDED (Brian Walsby, 3036 N. Arlington, Simi Valley, CA 93063; 1 stamp per issue): A newsletter with tiny, tiny print so that it has as much info as zines twice its size. Brian contributes to loads of zines and he also has a 90-minute compilation cassette out which is 5 bucks postpaid. Brian covers the best of hardcore, speedcore, and punk music in general. The best feature in the issue that I saw was "Old Farts Can Still Rock N Roll" with cogent comments on some 70's bands.

ANGRY, YOUNG, PROUD SKINHEADS (12234 Etchison Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21043; send a stamp): This one page "zine" is funnier than hell. Their lead-in paragraph has got to be self-satire -- but it seems like they do believe in some of the skinhead negative values. One article is titled "Gays: The Problem the Won't Go Away" but it almost seems tongue-in-cheek. I really don't know if this whole thing is a joke or not. But it's got great entertainment value. Upcoming issue to be called "These boots are Made for Mashing" (mashing being the body-stomping pastime of skins).

GLOSSOLALIA (935 13th Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414): A hilarious record review of "Meat is Murder" and a zany story about classical music on the bus and a long feature on a band called Illiterate Beach and a shorter one on Alex Chilton, the rock star who ended up washing dishes.

UNCLE FESTER (c/o Jake, 2235 France, Minneapolis, MN 55416; send stamps): Small zine with supplements with other Addams Family titles, pick hit listings, drawings, fanzine listings and offers for Uncle Fester stickers at a buck for eight.

PUKE ON THE WORLD (3133 Harriet Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408; send a stamp): A one-pager with a column called Drunken Opinions. A lot of this is scatological humor, which I like. The funniest thing in the issues I've seen is an attempted interview with a so-called Christian heavy metal band Stryper. They refused to talk after being told the name of the publication and being asked if they have groupies they fuck.

RED TAPE (5812 Roxbury Ct., Cypress, CA 90630; 50¢ & stamps): Young zine put out by young punk in Southern California. Coverage of young bands. Looking for any and all contributions. Even if this is defunct by the time you send for it he's got friends who put out their own zines and he'll no doubt send you one of those or a couple of flyers.

AWAY FROM THE PULSEBEAT (PO Box M1842, Hoboken, NJ 07030; $1 & stamps): A great great zine with color photographs on the cover and scads of pictures. Live reviews and record reviews with a scene report in Vol. 3 #1 that shows the singers for the Bloboys and the Dicks in drag (both are rather large gay guys). This zine is ultra professional and thick -- my only pissoff is that they slag the Smiths bad! Also a column of horror films. Get this one!

DANGEROUS RHYTHMS (c/o Gene Tensay, 439 Rivercrest Dr., Piscataway NJ 08854; $1 & stamps): Yet another winner from New Jersey! For a scene that has more pop and psychedelic bands than hardcore Jersey sure has a lot of great fanzines. This fanzine has lots of mini-interviews with Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, Gun Club, Shriek Back and more. Record reviews of bands of every stripe and color (at least of the types of music I appreciate and readers will know what those are by now). Lots of mini-photos on every page. Even a punk presidential nomination from the Pleased Youth party vs. the Genocide party with write-ins for the Stalemate party.

FOR YOUR SKULL (10800 Des Moines Ave. #4, Northridge, CA 91326): Lots of black and white graphics and xerox photo reproductions. Some info and the zine probably consists of whatever interested the contributing parties. Issue #6 is noteworthy for the art.

PRIMAL SCREAM (Cindy Mendes, 393 Woonasquatucket Ave., North Providence, RI 02911; $2): An all-photozine. Thick with full-page photos of most of Boston's best hardcore bands plus other bands that have played there. My only quibble is that there is only one female in the whole damned thing, the delectable Mary of 45 Grave.

DER MODERNE TIMES (PO Box 13437, Denver, CO 80201): Mainly coverage of Denver bands and lots of ads for the local record stores and clothing and music shops. Uberfall's singer sums up the attitude of a lot of hardcore-looking kids when he says, "I want to be noticed but left alone". Most of the other interviews and coverage are of bands more pop than punk -- but for anyone on their way to Denver I'd say this would be indispensible.

PIGS IN A BLANKET (1125 Foxhill, Longmont, CO 80501): A politico-punk zine. Heartfelt pages on vegetarianism, education, feminist separation (by a woman who uses the word "womyn" but otherwise seems real sensible), non-violence, labels, etc. etc. These people care but it's not exactly exciting reading and the layout is mundane. If you're into changing the world and networking to do it than this is for you.

POSITIVE PRINT (Steve, PO Box 448, Lakewood, OH 44107-0448): A one-off that mocks one of Cleveland's better-known zines, Negative Print. If you read it or you're from around Cleveland you might want to write Steve and see if he's got any more copies. Otherwise write for his regular zine, NO FUN.

FREE POETRY (PO Box 210208, San Francisco, CA 94121): The music hook-up here is Gatsby who does VILE PROPAGANDA -- her piece is prose poetry and the rest of the zine is xerox art with captions, poems, and lyrics.

PIG PAPER (70 Cotton Dr., Mississauga, ONT L5G 1Z9 CANADA): Gary Pic is an expert on obscure 60's and 70's music and quite well-informed on current stuff. He's had the PIG PAPER as an off and on proposition since way before the punk era. He is at it again with a one-pager that is also a one-of-a-kinder. His eclectic mix plus cartoons by Ace Backwords (ex-TWISTED IMAGE main man). You'll enjoy getting this so get in touch with Gary. He loves to trade, but then, so do most of these zines.

THE WIRE (KCMU, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195): College radio newsletter out of Seattle. Lots of info on labels and bands with an interview by Sonic Youth when they played up there earlier this year. Also a good place to send cassettes to get airplay.

MY SAILOR, MY SIN (Manchild, PO Box 1008, Pasadena, CA 91102-1008; 2 stamps): If you want to fill out an intimate questionnaire and keep your fingers crossed that it is not gonna fall into enemy hands write for this. I can't wait to see the other Manchild publication, MY SISTER, MY ENEMY.

MELODYMAKER (Quadrant Subscription Services Ltd., Oakfield House, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex, RH16 3DH, ENGLAND; $130 a year air to U.S.): One of England's music weeklies. This would be worth it for someone with lots of money to spend on a musical hobby. Otherwise look for issues of it and its rivals, NEW MUSICAL EXPRESS and SOUNDS at your local import record stores.

CONFESSIONS OF A WEIRD INFORMATION BUFF

by Al Fry

Hardly in my teens, I could hardly endure waiting for those strange and wonderful little packages to show up in my parents' mail box. I would order every cheap book and trick I could afford from flam mail order concerns like Johnston Smith and Co. Week after week, I would lovingly wade through Popular mechanics and similar classifieds to be sure I hadn't missed a single super discovery. My curiousity was constantly piqued and the promised surprises were very often a delight...in, often as not, soddy trappings. My precious files grew with super power crystal set plans, Trust jet rocket drawings, Charley Russell western cowboy prints from his old buddy Dick Jones and his mail order concern.

Day after day it was a little like Christmas... or perhaps like some junkie waiting for the dope delivery. The mail man was always waited on with anticipation and each pile of mail was precious. While getting through school, I could hardly wait to get the dumb curriculum out of the way so I could delve into the wonders of ancient South American Civilizations or into Enoch...to find out what really happened when the Devil and his bunch came to Earth. Slowly but surely my bulging files got made use of when my own ads got inserted alongside those other mail order wizards. Today, I still zip through piles of magazines and send for astonishing offers from those sneaky little classifieds. Now I lure my own customers into gaining the strange literature I stick. They find out how to make Laser guns, Bombs, send ESP, have better sex, store up 'Chi' energy, play non-standard music...and hundred of other wonderful things they would never learn in some dull boring public school. Instead of just putting in working hours at some boring job, each day of mail & mailing is still a delight. While countless persons caught in the 'rat race' emotionally die off at the age of 40, we curious info seekers still plunge off on our trip to never-ending goals and wonderment. Frankly, until there is no such thing as the US Mail, I'll still be anxiously awaiting the mail man. I'm still hooked.

STARS ON ONE

by Anni Ackner

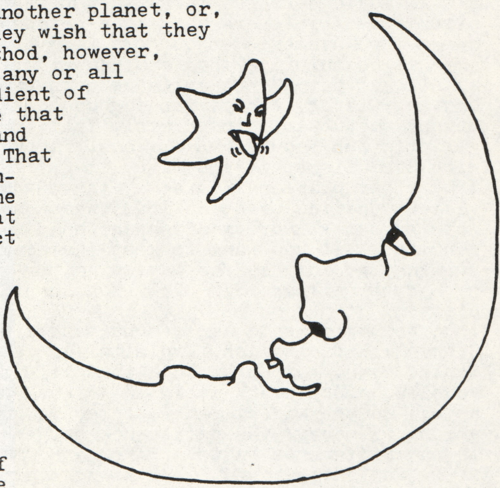
All right ladies and gentlemen, attention please. Today's lesson in your Apex Technical Seven Day Course in Successful Film-making concerns the art of Pandering. Kindly turn to page 223 in your texts. No, Bobby Altman, you may not leave the room. Perhaps if you knew a little more about Pandering you might have made another smash after NASHVILLE, instead of all those cerebral little things that don't appeal to anyone except a few elitist critics writing for intellectual snob newspapers.

Well, then. Who knows what "Pandering" is? Anybody? Steven Spielberg, YOU should know. No? Very well. "Pandering" is the art of tailoring a film to suit the audience's basest instincts and lowest level of taste, while at the same time striving to convince the audience that what you have created is a heartwarming example of American cinema at its finest, and that they are at least unpatriotic and possibly emotionally disturbed if they don't enjoy it. If you are successful at this, you will in turn have made a successful film and probably several million dollars in revenue. Questions? Yes, Louis Malle? Well, yes, it is possible to make a successful film without Pandering, but the trend is away from it these days, and the wise film-maker would do well to study this lesson very carefully. PURPLE ROSE OF CAIRO was a respectable little film that made a respectable little bit of money. GHOSTBUSTERS was a mega-hit. The difference can mean a new Cadillac Eldorado every year, rather than the same old Buick.

Now there are three broad general methods of Pandering and they are -- please make a note of this -- by Cuteness, by Exploitation, and by Cashing In. We will discuss each of these methods briefly, and by use of an example for each. This WILL be on the exam.

Let us begin with the Cuteness method. The Cuteness method depends on the theory of Us and Them, which, as you'll remember, we discussed in our first lesson. To recap, the theory of Us and Them states that a mainstream audience -- where the Big Bucks are -- consists of one set kind of people, those who do not fall into certain minority categories, and this set kind of people views all the minority categories with suspicion and sometimes hostility, ergo, if we wish to make Big Bucks, we do not make films about the minority categories. Who can name the minority categories of which our audience does not consist, and about which we do NOT make films? Sylvester Stallone? Very good. Our mainstream audience is NOT elderly, either very rich or very poor, fat, black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, homosexual, extremely intelligent, unattractive or from another planet, or, if they are any of these things, they wish that they were not. By using the Cuteness method, however, we CAN make successful films about any or all of these groups by the simple expedient of rendering them so patently adorable that they become cuddly and laughable, and therefore rendering them harmless. That which is cuddly, laughable and harmless can arouse no fear, at the same time it arouses no respect, and that which arouses no fear and no respect can be the element of a very successful motion picture indeed, as Us watch Them make fools out of Themselves, and take Them into Us's hearts therefore.

For example, let us look at COCOON. Though he has only made two major motion pictures so far, the director of COCOON, Ron Howard, is fast on the way to establishing himself as the King of Cuteness, having managed to squeeze



into his first major effort, SPLASH, a funny, lovable sensitive guy (a sub-category of "extremely intelligent"), a funny, lovable fat guy, a funny, lovable old woman, and a funny, lovable mermaid (not from another planet, but still an alien culture). In COCOON, Howard presents us with a veritable horde of elderly men and women, all of them so unbelievably cute as to cause immediate nausea in anyone who harbours the radical idea that the elderly are more or less like anyone else, only older. No one here is foolish enough to believe that, am I correct? Good.

How, you may ask, does Howard go about making the elderly people in his movie appear cute? There are two ways to accomplish this. The first, employed by Howard in SPLASH, is to make them appear confused, dotty, spaced-out and completely out of touch with the world around them, but Howard has grown as a director since then, and now employs the second, a far more subtle approach, which is simply to cause them to behave as we like to believe only young people behave. Most of us believe, for instance, that our particular generation is not only the only one that performs such bodily gymnastics as passing gas and having erections, but the one that invented such words as "fart" and "boner" as well, so if we are presented, on screen, with the idea that elderly people not only fart and get erections, but with the sound of elderly actors actually saying "fart" and "boner", our impulse, once we get past the initial moment of shock, is to laugh and find it adorable (this ploy is also helpful in making children appear cuter than children have any right to be, witness THE BAD NEWS BEARS). This holds true for just about anything that we like to believe only young people do -- dancing, swimming, expressing physical affection -- and Howard takes advantage of all of them, parading his elderly people (or, in any event, his elderly men) through a series of stunts that would tire a football player in his prime. The point that many elderly people do dance, swim, and express physical affection -- to say nothing of fart and get boners -- is moot here, as Howard is in no way making a statement about the strength of elderly people. Quite the contrary -- the aged characters of his film behave precisely as we (and he) believe aging people do (they are ill and crotchety, content to live out their lives in a kind of comfort of oblivion), until they come in contact with the magic of the aliens, at which point they begin to behave as we (and he) believe young people do. Howard doesn't believe the elderly are part of Us any more than we do, and therein lies the strength of his use of Cuteness. All right, Mr. Dante, we know you tried to do the same thing in TWILIGHT ZONE, but you had to go and put Scatman Caruthers, a real, strong, old man in there, didn't you? Consistency, Mr. Dante, consistency in all things. Now pay attention.

By the way, a word about those aliens. It may have seemed spurious to those of you who still retain an ideal or two -- you know who you are -- to include creatures from another planet in our list of those about whom we do not make films, but the fact remains that our mainstream moviegoers see those they perceive as different negatively, and extraterrestrials are as good a metaphor for this as anything else, hence the Cuteness method goes into operation once again. It should come as no surprise then that Howard's extraterrestrials are as Cute as all get out -- not quite as cute as, say, E.T. or R2D2, but cute enough. Clever, witty, wise, good-looking, kind, generous, loving; anyone who doesn't immediately fall in love with this pack of intergalactic Cub Scouts has obviously spent the last few years consorting with Communists. At one time, it was fashionable to present creatures from other planets in exactly the opposite light -- as bloodthirsty, violent enemies of humankind. These days, such a concept will net you nothing but V and its attendant headaches. Remember, ladies and gentlemen, if you want to keep that really good pharmeceutical coke rolling in, Cute is the way to go.

Bobby Altman, SIT DOWN. You should have gone before you came to class!

We now come to our second method of Pandering, which is -- class? Correct: Exploitation. Exploitation is what we do when we take a topic, event, group or idea that is currently "hot", that is, controversial, and present it in the sleaziest possible way, in order to appeal to the widest range of people and make ourselves the greatest amount of money. The difference between Exploitation and Non-Exploitation is the difference between RAMBO and COMING HOME, or ANGEL and STREETWISE. Put another way, when we make a non-Exploitive film we strive to emphasize the sanity, seriousness and/or humanity of that which we are depicting, while when we make an Exploitive film we strive to emphasize the bizarreness, outlandishness, and/or stupidity. Put a third way, when we don't Exploit, we end up with an intelligent look at a difficult subject. When we do Exploit, we end up with a beach house in Monaco. The decision is yours.

The director of THE EMERALD FOREST very nearly blew his chance at instant success, because for the first 45 minutes this film rambles along at a leisurely pace, pretending to be a story (a true story, no less. Take it under advisement, class: If someone is billing a movie as "a true story" or "based on a true story", 9 times out of 10 you're in for exploitation of the highest order) of a man who misplaces his young son in the rain forest of -- apparently -- Brazil (this is either never clearly explained or else your instructor missed it; it scarcely matters in either case) and spends years looking for the boy. It is not until after this low-key and tediously Non-Exploitive beginning, when the man finally locates the boy living with a tribe of Indians who call themselves "The Invisible People", that the Exploitation begins and we start to hear the sound of cash registers clanging. The idea being Exploited? That so-called "primitive" people have their own cultures and highly-developed life systems, just as viable and satisfying as our own, that are slowly being wiped out in the name of "progress". How to Exploit such a worthy and noble thought? First of all, make sure the group of "primitives" on whom you are focusing are the sort that live in a warm climate and so go about with minimal covering. This gives you the opportunity to show lots and lots of breasts without losing your "PG" rating. Second, be certain that the group considers its members sexually mature at an earlier age than we do, so that you have an excuse to depict nubile teenagers making love. Third, always be careful that your chosen group uses hallucinogenic plants in its rituals, so that you may show scene after scene of drug-crazed natives. Always play down the fact that nudity, early sexual experience and the use of mind-expanding substances are a part of life as natural to your chosen group as three-piece suits, singles ads and the four martini lunch are to ours, and play up the fact that wierdo savages are running around the jungle naked, getting stoned and fucking each other. For good measure, make the forces of progress in your film -- usually white men -- the most loutish, brutal, overbearing bunch you possibly can, with no good motives whatsoever, thus managing to Exploit two widely disparate groups within the framework of one movie, and have, as the makers of THE EMERALD FOREST so brilliantly did, the one good white man allow his son to remain in the jungle, realizing that a life of running around naked, getting stoned and fucking is preferable to a life of ripping up the jungle and watching movies of natives running around naked, getting stoned and fucking. Pound these points home with the subtlety of the house doctor at THE NATIONAL ENQUIRER discussing Reagan's colon operation, film it all in lurid color, and don't forget to use a cannibal tribe merrily devouring an unwary white reporter for background material, and you will be well on your way to increasing your stock portfolio a thousandfold.

Oh, grow up, Altman. Class is almost over.

Finally, we arrive at the Cashing In method of Pandering, probably the easiest to understand and certainly the easiest off which to make a quick buck. Cashing In is related, in a way, to Exploitation, in that they both seek to present something in the tackiest, cheapest way possible in order to make the most amount of money, but while Exploitation uses a controversial idea or group of people to further its aims, Cashing In relies on a fad or celebrity, and while Exploitation's sleaziness is the major factor in its money-making, Cashing In's sleaziness is merely a by-product. It is, in fact, possible to Cash In without being obviously cheap -- the Beatles first two movies are prime examples of this -- but, due to the ephemeral nature of the subject matter (who can give me a rough estimate of the shelf-life of fads and celebrities? Roman Polanski? A year? Well, that's pushing it, perhaps. Eight months might be a better guess), it isn't attempted often. Because fads and celebrities don't stick around for very long, in order to make money from them films involving them must be rushed into production and release as quickly as possible, leaving little time to engineer details like a coherent story, interesting script, decent direction, and talented co-stars. Fortunately, none of this matters very much, as it is a given that an audience fascinated by the fad or celebrity will not give what those in the business call a "flying rat's ass" about such mundane components of a film, as long as it gets to see its pet hobby on a wide screen, eight times larger than life. Hence we see, for instance, that what we generally call "Teenage Exploitation Movies" -- those focusing on sweet young things frolicking on beaches or having their limbs chewed off by psychotic murderers -- are really "Teenage Cash-In Movies", cashing in on the current mania concerning those unfortunate enough to be under the age of 21.

It should be perfectly clear, then, just how easy it is to make money by Cashing In. All you need is a fad -- health spas, for example -- or a popular star, any old script, even one written by your nephew who's taking Creative Writing as a minor while going for his MBA, someone to hold the camera and someone to sort of paste the film together after you've used it all up, and you have it made. Witness ST. ELMO'S FIRE.

ST. ELMO'S FIRE is a masterwork of Cashing In. Not only does it make use of a fad -- Yuppies -- but it employs not one, not two, not three, but SEVEN Hot Young Actors, each with his or her own fan following guaranteed to see the film at least ten time each. That whatever plot there is is contrived, that the script is cliche-ridden, that the seven Hot Young Actors (most of the members of the notorious Brat Pack, plus the maddeningly winsome Andrew McCarthy and a rather strange girl who has obviously taken our course in The Art of Parodying Margot Kidder, and not even counting Andie McDowell, the Jane of GREYSTOKE, who seems to be making a career out of being a gratuitous sub-plot, and Jenny Wright, the world's oldest adolescent) seem to be struggling under the leaden weight of their own abilities (except for Ally Sheedy, who is struggling under the weight of everyone else's) are all beside the point. ST. ELMO'S FIRE, people, is a Great Big Smash Hit, the kind we all want to make, because it has Cashing In down to a T. Will anyone care what a Yuppie was in ten years? Will Judd Nelson be the next Olivier or wind up doing dinner theatre in Kansas? Do the selfish, self-centered, mean-spirited childish characters in this film have anything important or entertaining to say? If you have to ask these questions, you have not been paying attention. When we Cash In, we disregard such petty considerations in favor of what really matters -- making money off something that's hot before it cools down. ST. ELMO'S FIRE achieves this admirably, and should be an object lesson for us all.

Oh dear, there's the bell. Please pass your homework forward. Mr. Fassbinder, would you collect the papers? For tomorrow, please study pages 250 through 275 in your text, paying special attention to those sections concerning rewriting a classic novel to include a part for Jerry Lewis.

Class dismissed.

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THIS IS YOUR CHANCE
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poetry

by Sean Haugh

When I remember that I heartily agreed with Arthur Hlavaty when he said it was the responsibility of a good reviewer to bring readers and writers together, instead of constantly holding up the bad for ridicule, I find it hard to imagine why I was eager to write poetry reviews when Mike needed them. It seems to me that of all the creative fields, there is a far greater chance of finding bad poetry while searching for the good. As just about anyone who has ever tried to be a poet knows far too well, it is exceptionally easy to construct exceptionally bad poems. Today much of the poetry you find is only run-on sentences arbitrarily chopped into short lines with funny spacing or a whining celebration of pseudointellectual self-destructive fantasies or the simplest shit-and-piss-and-fuck adolescent outbursts or all of the above. I'd like to avoid all this drek and tell you only about the poetry I think you might like to read.

There's quite a bit of poetic excrement in NRG 24, but because of its open format, there is enough room for some stuff more to my tastes. This zine excels in the random, the surreal, and the "experimenta;" (A red flag word which warns of at least a 50% level of utter garbage, unfortunately), much of which amused me, at least enough to recommend it at the cheap price of $4 a year. ((See the 'zines section for ordering info on these poetry mags -- Ed.)) Some poets made me feel as if I had entered their most intriguing dreams -- Rick Murphy's "The Cacti are Painting the Bones" takes the prize as a powerful testament of synesthesia, imaginery skeletons and shadows exploding into spiritual essences of color, while Paul Piper's "Umbrage of Love (for gil ott)" comes mighty close to expressing inexpressible emotions of human union overcoming matter. Maybe ¼ of the material in NRG is on this level. Some of my other favorites go beyond word salad poems into letter salad or even punctuation salad, but I get the impression that I am one of maybe half a dozen speakers of English who finds these exercises enjoyable.

Similar in format and sharing some of the same contributors, Lost and Found Times 16 reminds me of music by the Smiths, who are gaining some popularity. The beats are nicely syncopated and quite catchy, but the voices express far too much simpering pain to make the pleasure of the form deeply satisfying. John M. Bennett's four poems epitomize this attitude -- I felt invigorated to read aloud to myself his tense, active explanations of the meanings of various tools in his life (hammers, shoes and wheels), but I couldn't relate to his use of them as his symbols of of his animated self-decomposition. Bern Porter's examinations of water and suicide only make sense if you imagine a robot reading them aloud to an audience and forget that David Byrne ever existed. What stands out for me in this zine is the one exception that proves the rule, "Zigway" by the Minoy, which presents a simply lovely argument for dissolving the barriers between self, time and dreams.

I found the highest over-all level of poetry in Samisdat. One way to help you decide if poems really succeed as poetry is if you can go back a second or third time and pick out new shades of meaning which inform and intrigue you as much as the first rendering did. Rereading Miriam Sagan's "Calistoga, July 21, 1983" and "Ruins For Daniel" I feel lyrical sensations similar to those of travelling over land which I've seen before, taking in the comfortable familiar aspects along with the changes of scenery imposed by time, only instead of countryside we are exploring her memory. Making reacquaintances with Alfred Huffstickler's "Kinfolk" also achieves such transformation, making the eerie comfortable. Samisdat's poems range from pretty decent to mediocre, but little of it is bad or pretentious, which is no small feat considering the competition.

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MUSIC

Once again we are pleased to present for your listening pleasure a fine selection of independent records and tapes. This section is still far from settling into a routine. Originally the idea was to have Shane do all the music reviewing. However, getting music into Leavenworth is still tricky (write your Congressman to complain) and I've discovered that I enjoy some of this stuff. So once again we have reviews from the AEditor (MG), the Music Editor (SW) and a few combined reviews (C).

A word about prices: I try to list whatever price I can find in the promo material or on the music itself. If I can't find one, your guess is as good as mine. Even with a price listed, it might be wise to write and ask about shipping and handling. Or go hound your local music store, demanding that they stock more indies.

*****

THE 700 CLUB, self-titled (Slithering Disc Records, 484 Lake Park Ave., #142, Oakland, CA 94610): I would call this "experimental music",but what do I know? Experimental rhythms, strange pauses, odd song titles. Might almost be jazz if jazz had titles like "Mutant Clone" and "Dare to be Boring" and used instruments like baby rattles and car crashes. The music is not at all agressive or noisy, but more like New Wave background stuff. (EP) (MG)

*****

ANGST, self-titled (Happy Squid Records, PO Box 64184, Los Angeles, CA 90064): These guys don't actually seem to have all that much angst. Oh sure, they sing about how boring life is ("I don't want to go out/I don't want to stay in") and about how rotten the cops are (in "Pig", where the refrain is "Soooo-ee") and make nasty cracks about the first lady ("Does Nancy perform acts of oral copulation?"), but the music itself is exceptionally monotonic rock. (EP) (MG)

*****

AGITPOP, "Feast of the Sunfish" (Community 3 Recordings, 11-09 30th Drive, Astoria, NY 11102): Their label says they're constructivist music. I interpret that to mean the trio is well educated, both in general and in all contemporary music. It's hard for me to get a handle on this group. All the instruments can be heard individually and some of the vocals are soft -- but some of it is powerful and could be bordering on punk. If you like to be able to understand the lyrics and hear separation of instruments and the label "experimental new wave" sounds reasonable you'll probably like this. (LP) (SW)

*****

AMAURY PEREZ, "Amor Fati" ($2.50 ppd. from Flesh Records, PO Box 5040, North Bergen, NJ 07047): Probably the epitome of the truly independent music scene, this one was recorded in 4 tracks with a $15 microphone. Despite this, it sounds pretty damn good. Light and pleasant rock, heavy on the vocals. (45) (MG)

*****

THE BANDABLES, self-titled (Galt Records, 209-80 18th Ave, #5F, Bayside, NY 11360): Very cleanly produced light pop. Now I'm sure you've heard plenty of groups fronted by a female vocalist, but in fact it is Amy Miller's voice that makes the Bandables most memorable even though she doesn't do all of the singing. Check out her range on "Hard To Tell". Beats the hell out of Top 40. This is a demo tape, but copies are available for sale -- I just happen to have lost the letter with the price in it. (tape) (MG)

*****

BUNNYDRUMS, "Holy Moly" (Fundamental Music, PO Box 2309, Covington, GA 30209): A long unrecognized group who put out consistently good albums. If they were British they'd be more touted. The sound is slow and almost turgid, strictly guitars and drums pounding the beat and the melody into your brain directly through your skull instead of stopping for the ears. The lyrics make this mood music rather than storytelling, and the mood itself is dark and nearly despairing. Good for late nights. (LP) (C)

BLYTH POWER, "A Little Touch of Harry in the Night" (£2.60 from 96 Tapes, PO Box 396, Hackney, London E8 4PL ENGLAND): Oh so fucking British. This is some of the strangest sounding punk rock I've ever heard. Played so you don't miss a single word of the lyrics it's not exciting musically but the words are more accomplished than 99% of American punk. This comes with a virtual book and if you're into reading and thinking then this would probably give you something worthwhile to digest. Not preachy, though I'm virtually sure they're a peace punk anarchy band. The words are so damn literary that it's not 100% obvious. (tape) (SW)

*****

JIM CLINEFELTER & BOB FORWARD, "The Pulpit That Exploded" (AT Productions, 812 Stadelman Ave., Akron, Ohio 44320): If the 700 Club are experimental, this is Mad Scientist music. A stereo recording with two completely different tracks, each produced by recording random snippets off the radio on Sunday morning and mixing with bits and pieces of other tapes. On the cutting edge of the lunatic fringe ambient music movement. (tape) (MG)

*****

CONE OF SILENCE, self-titled (Mystic Records, 6277 Selma, Hollywood, CA 90028): This can't be punk, it's too easy to listen to. Besides, you can hear the vocals and the drums and the guitars, and none of them will make your teeth ache like fingernails across a chalkboard will. But on the other hand, the lyrics are definitely punk: "I don't wanna work in this place/Think I'll punch my boss in the face" or "The walls are closing in/Take me Somewhere/Anywhere that's free". So what is this? Just good music, I guess. (EP) (MG)

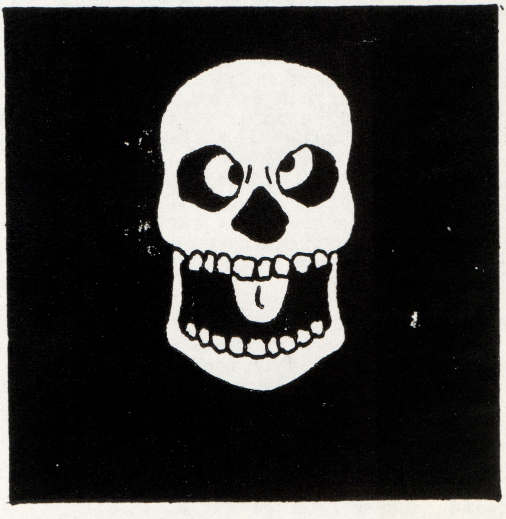
*****

CRAWL AWAY MACHINE, self-titled ($7 from CD Presents, 1230 Grant Ave. #531, San Francisco, CA 94133): Surreal synthesizer music from the Bay Area. I can't find much that makes this record stand out from the pack, except for their publicity material, which reveals the band members' history as Zen Nuns, porno stars, and second-generation street band members. If you run across this, it's worth a listen; but I wouldn't go out of my way to find it. (EP) (MG)

*****

THE CUCUMBERS, "Who Betrays Me...and Other Happier Songs" (Fake Doom Records, Lock Box 7295, New York, NY 10116): This is a Hoboken-based pop group that has garnered critical acclaim. Considering I'm not much of a pop-meister, I have to admit that these songs are pretty good, and so is the production, done by a musician who plays with my anti-hero, John Cale. The Cukes have both a male and a female vocalist, both bright and snappy. I wonder if they know about all the cucumber jokes going around lately? (LP) (SW)

*****



EXECUTIVE SLACKS, "You Can't Hum When You're Dead" (Fundamental Music, PO Box 2309, Covington, GA 30209): A great album title. That seems to be a trend these days but I'll save them for a future PENNED IN column. This has dominating drums and various shades of grey and black music. Once again the terms gothic and industrial could apply, but unlike experimenters such as THEATRE OF ICE this band is in a groove that doesn't change much. I have it on authority that this is actually 2 EPs and 2 compilation cuts put together on one LP. This is good for what it is but I prefer gothic with more heart like that from the group SISTERS OF NO MERCY. (LP) (SW)

FADE TO BLACK, "Corridors of Gender" ($7 from C.D. Presents, 1230 Grant Ave. #531, San Francisco, CA 94133): Dire and foreboding music is "in" these days, and Fade to Black is another group recording it. Slow, droning and minor key, the five songs on this are apparently designed to make you go out and blow up a school, or at least kick a dog. With both male and female vocalists and an accomplished keyboard player, Fade to Black ought to be capable of better than this. (EP) (MG)

*****

F/i, "Illuminati" (Uddersounds, PO Box 27421, Milwaukee, WI 53227): This is unrelenting harsh industrial. The songs are long and you could easily picture yourself in a true work setting with a grinding machine driving you crazy. Not nearly as enjoyable as Mental Anguish and not nearly as accesible as Theatre of Ice. I can only recommend this one to collectors of harsh sound. (tape) (SW)

*****

HIDE, "Dementia 5" (See zine section for ordering info): This is the compilation tape that goes along with the HIDE fanzine. As with many compilations, the music and production are very uneven. The key thing about this one is that most of the bands sound like they're having fun. Styles range all the way from garage rock to heavy metal to, yes, polka: the Polkaholics are one of my favorite groups on this compilation. At $2 for the whole thing, HIDE is definitely a good value. (tape) (MG)

*****

KOO DOT TAH, "I.Q. 1986" b/w "Free Radicals" (K.D.T. Records, PO Box 85781, Seattle, WA 98145-1781): Somewhat poppy record with (apparently) a political message that I can't make out because the vocals are mixed too low. Nothing to write home about, either in a good or a bad sense. (45) (MG)

*****

KREMLIN KORPS, "Moscow's Revenge" ($2.50 from S.O.S. Records, PO Box 16117, Philadelphia, PA 19114-0117): If for no other reason you've got to getthis to hear a female singer sing "He sucks our dicks..." -- I'm gonna give her the benefit of the doubt and assume she is only singing the lyrics but didn't write them. Actually, I know that's true because I'm looking at the lyric sheets. This is a cool set of 4 songs and I support these guys -- I love their anti-straight edge fascism song. (EP) (SW)

LEGIONAIRE'S DISEASE, self-titled (Fowl Records, PO Box 1821, San Francisco, CA 94101): Texas punk rock, a rather minimal guitar-and-drums sound that affects the nerves like coarse sandpaper. Made to be played LOUD so that the singer's atonality is an asset rather than a hindrance. The lyrics seem a touch highbrow for the music, touching on anomie, brainwashing, and solipsism. (EP) (MG)

*****

LEPERS, "I Wanna Be God" (Unclean Records, PO Box 725, Sand Springs, OK 74063): This is my kind of grunge. Decadent lyrics like "I wanna be God/Don't you think that's odd?/I wanna come back/Make the sky turn black" and "You want a good buzz, try shootin' smack" and "So why does it hurt when I think?". My excerpts might make them sound nihilistic, actually they're just cynics with a mean 2 guitar attack and a great overall sound. These guys and Tales of Terror are my favorite true punk bands this issue. (45) (SW)

*****

MANIFEST DESTINY, "We love our country, it's the Government We Can't Stand" (Mystic Records, 6277 Selma Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028): With a title like that, I expected great things from this record. Unfortunately, it was actually pretty lame. Undistinguished noise, the same as you get from a hundred other punk groups, and that's about all she wrote. (EP) (MG)

*****

MENTAL ANGUISH, "Over the Border" $5 (Harsh Reality Music, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): Another scary individual, Chris Phinney has done it again. These songs are less gothic and more industrial than Theatre of Ice. The vocals are so altered as to be 100% unintelligible. The sound is excellent. Chris is very experienced as this is his own tape label which puts out his full band, Skoptzies, and other projects of his and other industrial music. Send some stamps for a catalog. Unlike SPK, who became a dance band, and Throbbing Gristle, who disintegrated, Chris has kept the true spirit of industrial music going. Mental Anguish cause mental pleasure. (tape) (SW)

MICRONOTZ, "The Beast That Devoured Itself" (Fresh Sounds, Inc., PO Box 36, Lawrence, KS 66044): This is close to hardcore punk, sharing the same fast tempo and growling vocals of many bands, but the music itself has a different tone. It depends more on the bass guitar than the lead guitar and drums. Actually, they have three guitars giving them a very full sound, but one which, thanks to the heavy bass, is sure to set your heart pounding. They sound dangerous even when singing about cheeseburgers or farmers. Musically cleaner than most punk but still unmistakably not the mainstream. (LP) (MG)

*****

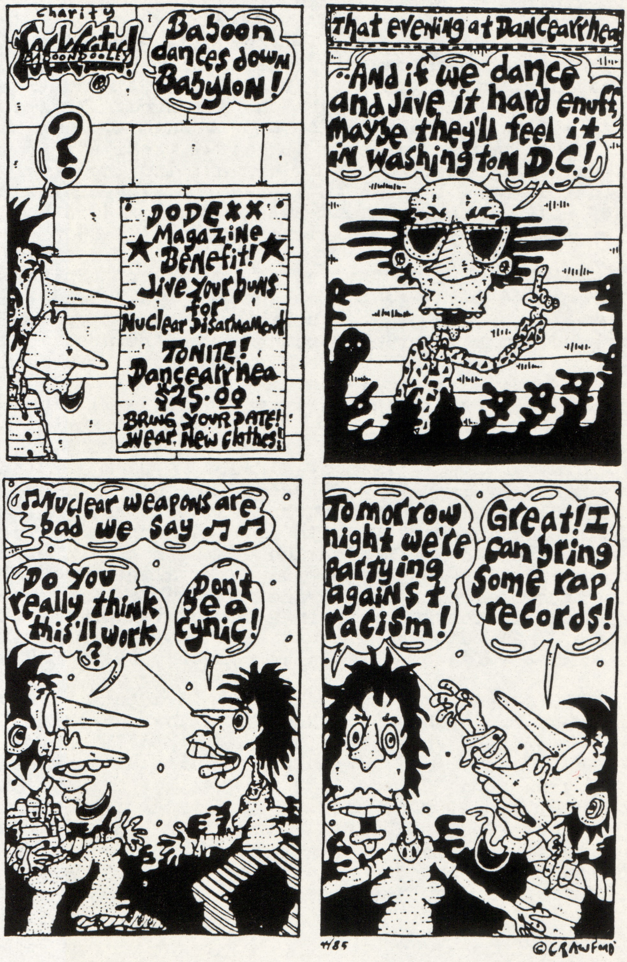
THE MIDDLE OF AMERICA COMPILATION (H.I.D. Productions, PO Box 25, Evanston, IL 60204): This Chicago-area effort is a cut above the usual compilation album, having cuts from a number of bands that have put out critically acclaimed albums recently: Big Black, Effigies, Articles of Faith and Naked Raygun. Strictly hardcore, a few of the cuts suffer from the vocals being completely drowned out or, worse yet, sounding like they were recorded and mixed later, but the best ones rise above this. Especially good are Out of Order's "Survival of the Fittest", where the singer is as fast as a tobacco auctioneer but still understandable, and the hardcore instrumental cuts by Big Black and The Effigies. (LP) (C)

*****

MINISTRY OF TRUTH, self-titled (PO Box 3419-113, La Mesa, CA 92041): Young punks from the San Diego area. I listened to this on the day Live Aid was broadcast. After about 7 solid hours of listening to the world's biggest rock stars play their hearts out for starving people I was most uplifted by the first 10 bars of the melodic hardcore of M. of T. Songs don't vary that much, it's all mainly bar chords at tempos ranging from fast to very fast, but not one song is a turkey either and the singer has a voice that isn't the puking sound of a lot of thrash vocalists, not that I don't like that sound, because I do, but M. of T.'s singer is cool. (tape) (SW)

*****

MUSCLE, self-titled (PO Box 210282, Cola, SC 29221): This six-song tape seems to be pretty basic garage band rock. No promo material came with it, but I wouldn't be surprised if Muscle is one guy with a four-track recorder who can play guitar and drums, as the vocals aren't much to listen to. Very clean, minimal production with each song based on just one riff and one catch-phrase to revolve the vocals about: "Can't Wait on Love" and "Don't Say You Don't Say" will give you an idea of the themes involved. (tpae) (MG)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And if we dance and jive it hard enuff, maybe they'll feel it in Washington D.C.!
♫ Nuclear weapons are bad we say ♫ ♫
Do you really think this'll work?
Don't be a cynic!
Tomorrow night we're partying against racism!
Great! I can bring some rap records!
4/85
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NONE OF THE ABOVE, "Toy Soldiers" (Rabid Cat Records, PO Box 49263, Austin, TX 78765): NOTA are skinheads out of Oklahoma. They like a lot of English bands but their sound is much closer to LA hardcore or the Canadian melodic hardcore sound. Also, even though these guys are on record as collecting OI bands their lyrics are much closer to Peace Punk. "Toy Soldiers", the title cut, is one of the most upbeat anti=war anthems you'll ever hear -- not poppy, but still "meaty, beaty, big and bouncy". I like this EP a lot. Every song is good. They're the best group on Rabid Cat except possibly for Scratch Acid. Look for an LP by N.O.T.A. (as they're almost alwys called) real soon.(EP) (SW)

*****

NOT FOR SALE, "A Few Dollars More" (Rabid Cat Records, PO Box 49263, Austin, TX 78765): Pretty middle-of-the-road rock with some country influence. The best cut is "Too Late to Worry", featuring a twangy solo in front of a hard rock background, but even on this one the vocals are nearly impossible to seperate from the noise. Nothing here to write home about. (45) (MG)

*****

JOHN OSWALD, "Sampler" ($2 from Box 727, Station P, Toronto, ONT M5S 2Z1 CANADA): Just what it says, snippets of all the styles he is capable of, all of them interesting. Oswald is a one-man tape label. He likes to sell people "mystery" tapes (in fact that's the name of the label) but he also has certain named releases, which resemble various portions of this sampler. So write him and get the sampler and his catalog and discover his decidedly eclectic genius (Dammit! I thought I was going to get through these reviews without using the word genius. Oh well.) (tape) (SW)

*****

OWN THE WHOLE WORLD 9/10 (See zine sectionfor ordering info): The jam-packed accompaniment to this fanzine, this tape crams 22 songs on to one tape, with a variety of styles. Let's just mention a few: Clay Vause and Jim DiCaudo produce the 10½ minute "Plato's Nightclub", a wild, fast-moving electronic romp through a dozen musical styles; Malcolm Ryder contributes the eerie "Dreadful Mistake"; from AxSxFx comes the loud and abrasive "We're big Women"; and the lively garage rock of Imagination Dead Imagine in "Lay-off". Much of the music on this tape is definitely experimental, but it touches down on familiar ground often enough to hold my interest. (tape) (MG)

*****

PAINTED WILLIE, "My Fellow Americans" (Spinhead Records, 2265 Westwood Blvd. #541, Los Angeles, CA 90064): This hasn't affected me yet. These guys used to be in Sin34 and they had a scrumptious teen-aged femme fronting for them. They're good musicians, but this is almost like a concept record and there is some talking going on over the top of some of the songs. It just isn't that cool, though because the music is solid I imagine it will grow on me. (EP) (SW)

*****

SHOCKABILLY, "Vietnam" (Fundamental Music, PO Box 2309, Covington, GA 30209): This is without a doubt my pick for the best of the batch this time. Ed Sanders and Eugene Chadbourne blend their voices incredibly well, and Chadbourne can make his guitar range from pure psychedelic feedback down to slow, almost acoustic melodies. Kramer on bass & organ and David Licht on drums round the group out. Most of their stuff is potent, powerful rock, almost rockabilly, but their repertoire is ridiculously wide. Best cuts: A remake of "Born on the Bayou"; ditto for "Georgia In a Jug", with an almost South American beat, and the final cut, "Nicaragua", a hauntingly beautiful song that I'd love with or without the social consciousness. Buy this record. (LP) (MG)

*****

STRETCH MARKS, "What D'Ya See" (Headbutt Records, Box 131, Stn. L, Winnipeg, Man. R3H 0Z4 CANADA): Out on their own Canadian label and the Better Youth Organization label this is one of the classic LPs of 1984. Great Canadian punk. Not quite as many guitar solos as D.O.A. or the great gone Personality Crisis, but its in the same melodic but hardcore vein of punk rock. Lyrics range from pessimism about future wars to excited amazement at wrestling exploits. Sure, they're anti-nuke, anti-religion, anti-government, anti-substance abuse (but not "straight edge" but these guys are about having fun and the lyrics play a lesser role than the consistently good music. A must have. (LP) (SW)

SUPER SEVEN SAMPLER (Mystic Record Group, 6277 Selma Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028): A selection of one cut each from seven different Mystic recording artists. All of these bands are hardcore punk, with loud guitars and shouted vocals; I can barely tell them from one another. Further, this is such a crappy pressing that I can't play the first cut on either side without the needle skipping out. Not a good ad for Mystic. (EP) (MG)

*****

THEATRE OF ICE, "The Haunting" and "Beyond the Graves of Passion" ($5 each from 6950 Pasture Rd., Fallon, NV 89406): Imagine 4 brothers in Nevada. The Johnson boys are into horror and music. They think fear is god's gift to mankind. So what do they do? They start a band and make some of the scariest music ever. Whether you call this industrial or horror rock the point is that these guys do it well, and are more accesible to the average listener than most industrial music. These tapes could be the soundtrack to your worst nightmare, but they're not oppressive -- there are lots of lyrics to pick out and lots of short and medium length songs so the tapes never get boring. Get these and ask about future releases. "It only took a second to cut off her head/I watched it as her golden hair turned to red" (tape) (C)

*****

PAUL THORNTON, "Yesterday and Tomorrow" (Fowl Records, PO Box 1821, San Francisco, CA 94101): If I didn't know better I'd say this one came out of a time warp from 1965 or so. The flip side, "I'll be around", ain't much, but "Give a Damn" is vaguely Dylanish folk rock, easy to listen to and with the sort of anthemic lyrics one would expect from the title ("Give a damn/Help the people/It's the only way"). (45) (MG)

*****

THROWING MUSES, self-titled (c/o Ken Goes, PO Box 9515, N. Dartmouth, MA 02747): 3 girls and one guy out of Newport, Rhode Island who started playing together in high school. There's a band called Salem 66 that almost fits that description who are the critics' darling right now, so comparison is inevitable. The Muses are more strident than Salem 66, both on vocals and on the keyboards. But even though high-pitched and at times almost agressive, the stridency works because the songs are good. Doing all orignal material, the girls swap vocal, keyboard and guitar chores depending on the moods they're in. Probably the best cut here is "Dirt is on the Floor", with Elaine Adamedes out in front and David Narcizo doing a superb job on the drums. Try this one out if you can find it or write for a price. (EP) (C)

*****

TMA, "What's For Dinner" ($6 from Jimboco Records, PO Box 203, Ansonia Sta., New York, NY 10023): Not far from the pinnacle of grunge stand TMA. I don't know what, if anything, the acronym stands for. They're out of Jersey and reminiscent of their homeboys, Adrenalin OD. This means that most of the lyrics are humorous and most of the songs are fast thrash. These guys could be the Ramones of '85 except that the Ramones are still around. This album is very well done in all facets. (LP) (SW)

*****

UNDERGROUND SOLDIER, "Fun Before Profit" (Speed of Sound Records, PO Box 16117, Philadelphia, PA 19114-0117): I'm not totally convinced by this one, even though occasionally it reminds me of mid-period Black Flag, which is a sound near and dear to my heart. For the record this is a slow, metallic punk band with an anguished vocalist. Worthwhile for the hardcore version of that 70's hit RADAR LOVE (they call it RAID-R LOVE) and the original RIOT IN SAFEWAY. Actually quite good but up against tough competition. (LP) (SW)

*****

XS, demo tape (Bird of Prey Records, 29 Woodland Rd., Carlisle, MA 01741): Their label calls them "Suburban speed rock" The A side cut, "Jesus Died", is backed up by a relentless twanging guitar beat and features well-constructed lyrics ("Jesus died for your sins/He didn't die for mine") -- it lives up to the promo billing of "Raw, angry and powerful", taking aim directly at the heart of organized religion. The other side, "All You Need", is just raw, and the less said of it the better. Worth waiting for their EP. (tape) (MG)

*****

HEAVY MENTAL, untitled (FREE from Persistant Productions, PO Box 777, Evanston, IL 60204): Yup, free, because this psychedelic quartet is after a wider audience. Influenced by Zappa, the Monkees, and drug music, these boys grind out 25 solid minutes of insane lyrics and tortured guitars. Best bets: "Pepsi Generation" and "Sweet Patunia" (tape) (MG)

WHY PUBLISH ?

A few issues ago I invited other publishers to talk about their zines -- why they publish, what it costs, how many copies they send out, or anything else they wanted to mention. I've gotten back a number of responses, and while there certainly aren't enough to draw any general conclusions about the zine world (if, indeed, there are any to be drawn), I'm glad to see that no one else knows why we're doing this any more than I do. Herewith a selection from the letters I got:

Kyle Hogg, BOLD PRINT:

BOLD PRINT has a circulation of about 75. It costs me about $6.75 to put it out. I make a profit of about $15...Most of my copies are sold around town, 7 out of town subscriptions, and a lot of thru the mail trades.

((And that is, I think, the recipe for profits -- stay small. You can make a profit by growing huge, but there will be a long span of time in the middle when you'll lose money. MG))

Rev. KATrina Fixx, THE WHOLE SHMEER:

Why do I publish thee? Let me count the delays. I found the BOOK of "Bob" two weeks before embarking on an eight week trek across these 'merican states. At the time there was no way to know I'd be writing to people whose hometowns I'd just visited. When I returned to SLC, I was layed off....So, with no work and a mutant mailing list in my grip, I published the first WHOLE SHMEER. I didn't know such networks existed and dove right in....I don't feel a need to send out as many copies as I used to; I already have more people to write to than I can handle, and keep my mailing list pared down.

((You bring up another problem of the big circulation -- I end up not writing personally to as many people as I'd like to, through sheer lack of time. Anyone know where I can get a foundation grant to support myself? MG))

David Greenberger, DUPLEX PLANET:

I started the DUPLEX PLANET in Feb/79, and I just won't quit. I've been doing it so long now that something would be missing if I wasn't doing it. Every month, it's just a part of my routines. It was started initially when I was working at the Duplex Nursing Home as activities director....My ideas of just exactly what it is I'm doing have developed as I'v gone along. Which is probably also what kept me funding it when it wasn't paying for itself. It does now, barely. I mail out about 350 each month, and another hundred or so go to stores and distributors. I get 650 printed each month. It's somehow comforting to have boxes of it lying around....When you're doing a self-motivated project that isn't making you money, it should at least satisfy as many urges, interests and whatnot as it can. And for me, it does. I'm reaching people with it, and on two ends -- one, when I interview the guys at the nursing home. I'm their pal and they're mine, I'm happy to be there. And the other end is the readers of the magazine. Most of the readers have little or not contact with nursing homes or elderly and this is my way of sort of sketching in these fringe characters for them.

((David also talked of the nuts and bolts of production, and was the one who convinced me to buy a saddle stapler for FF. MG))

I HAVE NO REASON TO BE DISSATISFIED BUT I STILL AM.
MAYBE I JUST WON'T RETURN THESE CALLS AND GO HOME EARLY.
HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR WORK FOR TODAY?
YES, BUT I WON'T START ON TOMORROW'S
Howard
8-4
© News America Syndicate, 1985

John d'Beers, AHA!

The circulation for AHA! 3 is right now at 200 but it will go up to 500 copies depending on the demand. This was the issue I put a cassette tape in and the feedback has been good....I figure that for 200 copies it cost me $450 to $500.

Profit? Not really, because I'll give away about 1/3 of the copies and the rest of the leftovers go back into the next bag. I usually trade for other things and I'm trying to get out into the foreign market.

Duane Dinham, THE FRONT PAGE:

FP this time I figure cost me about $80, this trying to cut as many corners as possible, for 500 copies. Right now I don't have a job so it could possibly be a while before FP #5 arrives on the scene. I got the money this time from the last bit of my savings and from the whopping three ads in the magazine. However I'm sending out quite a few copies in trade this time, so hopefully I can get some more ads (thus more pages probably) and get on some mailing lists.

((It's a long slow process to get one's circulation built up and start getting on mailing lists. I'd guess about 3/4 of the copies of FF that I send out of my own accord to magazines and such I've heard of don't bring any response. MG))

Myrocosmus V, A DISCORDIAN DIRECTORY:

I have sold copies from being listed in FF: more from there than from any other source (including word of mouth from subscribers and the few ads I've had in other works). I would guess that over the three issues I've been in I have received 10 or so orders. Curiously, only a small number remain in contact after that initial issue.

((I've noted myself that the number of people who come back for a second issue of FF is pretty small, though the ones that do come back usually subscribe for a long time. I wish I knew what the others were after. MG))

Fred Mills, SON OF BIOHAZARD INFORMAE:

I had 175 copies of SOBI printed. Total cost was about $160 to print and 54¢ postage per copy. I did not make a profit; sold 'em for $1 or $1.50, whatever someone sent me, aside from sending out at least 55 free copies to nice folks, a number were sent out as trades. And since it was a one-shot, there's no way to recoup on future issues. But it was fun, even more fun than doing U2/USA; the praise I received from fellow ziners such as yourself was more than enough to make the whole effort worthwhile. Seems I actually did do something that people were interested in! Didn't receive a single piece of hate mail, either.

Al Fry, MODERN HUMANS:

I find catalogs of specialized knowledge make money if enough selection -- Periodicals I have found a good way to starve...Have made a living for years playing with paper work.... I lose $ from P.O. censorship (long tale). Big Brother watches radicals & it's not paranoia fantasy.

Hank, MESSAGE POST:

We have been printing approx. 500 copies and this is what happens to them: Old Subscriptions (175), Subs swapped for articles or work (25), trade (25), samples to outfits mentioned (10). These are mailed out as soon as the issue is printed. The following are future mailings: New Subscriptions (40), Sample copy sales (60), Free Samples (mostly to pubs) (25), Back issue sales (50), stashed away (125). Roughly 40% of subscribers renew. Roughly 25% who buy sample copies subscribe or order pamphlets through Light Living Library.

How to get more money I can't help with, but how to cut costs maybe. Some ideas: Put everything but the reviews in another pub... Do an annual directory plus a quarterly supplement reviewing new pubs, giving COAs, etc....Put it all on fiche...I wonder if the display ads pay for their space?

((Yup, they do, and then some, or I wouldn't sell them. As for your other ideas, I'm thinking about going to some sort of annual directory to sop up some of the repetition, but the problem is time, as always. And with my circulation still rising fast and costs coming close to income, I'm less worried about the money than I used to be. MG))

Joe Schwind, KANSAS COLLEGE OF COLLAGE:

I usually receive 3 or 4 letters whenever the College of Collage is mentioned in FF. Usually send out about 200 bulletins; the last 50 trickle out over several months.

((With FF, I guess about 50 to 75 copies trickle out between issues; I hate to do this, because the postage is so much more when they're not part of a bulk mailing, but I don't like to make folks wait months for a copy either. So it goes. MG))

Stewart Home, SMILE:

Cost for Smile varies, the last two issues cost around Ⱡ35 for 500 copies A5 16 pages. The next issue which will be a much higher print standard will be about Ⱡ60 for 20 A4 pages with 500 copies being printed. My print costs are very low compared to commercial prices coz I always get stuff done cheap through people I know, there's no way I could afford it otherwise....I've written to a few people you review but I have a policy of not buying small press stuff, or indie tapes, records, books, etc, I just trade coz I get so many offers to buy stuff and I can't afford any of it.

((How familiar that sounds! If you count the cover prices of all the trade zines I get, FF makes a healthy profit; as it is, I'm strapped for cash which is at the moment more important than book value of stuff. And like you, I figure anyone who doesn't want to trade isn't worth sending money to. MG))

How to Raise Your Crap Detection Quotient

by Julie Summers

Since crap detection can save money, time, and health it's a habit worth cultivating. Begin by posing questions like the following whenever anyone tries to sell you a scheme, product, service or idea; whether on TV, bill or bulletin boards, in magazines, newspapers ,letters or conversation.

"Make thousands..." The appeal to money hunger immediately puts me on guard. Do I know anyone personally who can vouch for the information -- with more than just enthusiasm? Until one sees proof of more money earned than spent, consider it another get-fleeced-quick proposition.

"Secrets revealed..." Generally speaking, unless one happens to be in espionage, there are no secrets. In my experience, what's being sold as "secrets" is uaually available elsewhere, at a lower price as just plain information.

"Recent lab tests by scientists have shown..." Conducted how, where, by who, financed by who (if by vested interests, then favorable results are suspect)? Don't be mesmerized by the words "lab", "tests" or "scientists", which, undefined, are meaningless.

"In my experience..." That consists of what?

"Reginald von Genius, renowned expert, says..." Even granting the person is knowledgeable in one field, that doesn't mean he knows beans about what's being discussed or advertised from another field. For example, a world explorer isn't necessarily up on whiskey. Also if the person is getting money, publicity or other benefits they may be less than candid. Even if sincere, their judgement may be swayed by the rewards.

"Product X helps..." Helps how much? Plain water might do as well.

"My method never fails (or always works)" Really? Where's the verifiable proof? And while he's coming up with it, contemplate how many things in life never fail.

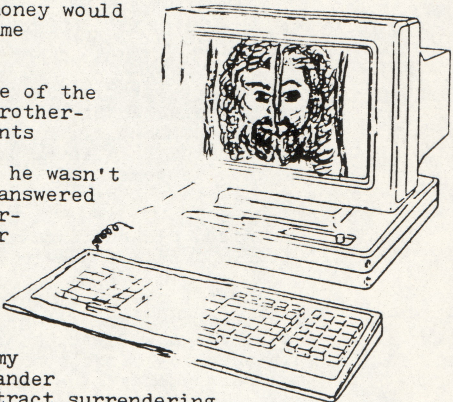
Note that I feel my safest assumption is that until proven otherwise most advertising, including statistics, contains misrepresentations, if not out and out lies.

Finally ask So What? Even if a statement is true, it might be irrelevant. Even if five million people do drink Glop, that doesn't mean that it's good for me.

Now when someone points to sheep in a nearby field and claims they've just been shorn, you won't be taken in for a minute; you'll just reply, "Well, on this side, at least". Congratulations, and welcome to the ranks of the skeptics.

NOTES OF A NEON GRINGO

by Kerry Wendell Thornley



The other way I could make extra money would be modeling -- as soon as I get my resume together and a photograph.

* * *

Even though I still agree with some of the purposes of the arguments I made with brother-in-law, I hold that none of the agreements constitute valid contracts because:

1) He was pretending to be someone he wasn't so I didn't take him seriously -- so I answered differently than I would have if I understood he was actually someone with power to make our agreements binding;

2) Because of his cover as a fierce Nazi gangster, I also feared him and answered in ways designed to humor him, instead of honestly;

3) I at one point contracted away my freedom in these discussions and as Lysander Spooner points out in *No Treason*, a contract surrendering the rights and basic liberties of one of the parties is absurd and invalid in terms of common law;

4) My ideas have changed since then due to an accumulation of additional knowledge -- i.e., I'm no longer a laissez-faire capitalist -- yet CBS is said to have been manipulating events so as to use me to advance these Austrian economics ideas to which I agreed then; I don't think advancing a sociology that doesn't work (because it is a mixed economy in favor of intervention for capital against labor) is in the best interest of society (and even von Mises argued that mixed economies are unstable: he just couldn't conceive of anything as unmixed as decentralism).

* * *

An approximation of laissez-faire capitalism -- with its land monopoly, strike breaking in defense of absentee property and need to exert absentee control over workers -- created the mess of this century, leading step by step to liberalism, Keynesianism, the struggle by all classes for the control of the state and ultimately, by the inherent logic of absentee production, to mind control. Why make an attempt -- that will no doubt be compromised as before in favor of capital against labor -- to establish what is actually a mixed, coercive economic system that will, in another fifty years, bring us back to our present situation? Why not -- instead -- create a milieu where nonviolent strikes of expropriation of absentee property are legal? Where whatwas accumulated by theft instead of labor can be rightfully claimed by labor when labor so decides? This is only one significant change in practice from the theory of laissez-faire capitalism, and yet it makes an enormous difference in avoiding -- or providing recourse against -- the evils of inheritance, landlordist feudalism and regimentation of workers.

* * *

For it is the remnants of feudalism in capitalism in the form of mechanisms for accumulating unearned wealth that drive labor to eventually struggle for control of the state -- to counter these *distortions in the free market -- that keep it from being wholly free* -- that wreck any semblance of a free market in the long run. Labor -- under a Proudhonian decentralist ideology -- is not *obligated* to seize all unearned wealth, it is simply free to seize such wealth by organized nonviolent methods without state interference.

* * *

This is similar to Ayn Rand's distinction between an obligation and a right which she applies to foreign policy only.

* * *

Because of a failure to recognize this right as applied to economics, we wind up confronting such absurdities as:

A Permanent Universal Rent Strike would be illegal; therefore illegal suppression of free speech is justified in order to keep people from advocating this illegal action.

So, to avoid the *advocation* of an illegal action, we are called upon to *practice* an illegal policy.

ROBERT SHEA
284 GREENWOOD AVENUE
GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022
312 / 835-4493

July 11, 1985

Dear Friend,

Nobody asked me to write this letter. And in a way I feel sheepish about doing it, because we all get letters soliciting money for good causes, and there is no way I can avoid making this sound like another one of those letters. But this is something that, this morning, I feel very strongly that I have to do.

Also, please forgive me for sending you a photocopied letter. I felt I had to do something quickly.

Just a few hours before I started writing this I heard about the bombing of the Rainbow Warrior, the flagship of the Greenpeace fleet. There were eleven people aboard the ship when the first bomb went off. They got off safely, but when Fernando Pereira, the ship's photographer, went back aboard to investigate, a second bomb went off, killing him.

I've been sending contributions to Greenpeace for a number of years. Of all the environmental organizations I know of, they're at the top of my list, because they don't just lobby. They go to sea and risk their lives by putting their bodies between the would-be killers of whales, dolphins and seals and the ocean dumping of nuclear waste. And they are committed to nonviolence as a strategy for social change. The Rainbow Warrior was to have led a small protest flotilla on a four-month Pacific cruise, including a visit to the French nuclear testing site at Mururoa.

Last March Yvonne and Michael and I actually encountered the Rainbow Warrior docked in Nassau, the Bahamas. For us it was the kind of thrill you experience whenever you meet one of your heroes in person. We admired the beautifully painted decorations, the rainbows, the ecology symbols, the Northwest Coast Indian motifs. We watched the crew at work and we chatted with them. Because of this small personal contact, our grief and anger is all the more acute.

So I am sending them a check for $100 today. But I wanted to do something more, so I am writing this letter and I will send it to 100 of my friends, including you. If each person who gets this letter sends only $10, we'll have raised $1000 to help raise or replace the Rainbow Warrior. That isn't much. Greenpeace just spent $135,000 overhauling it. Something else you could do is write a letter of your own to your friends.

Anyway, if any of this touches you, please send a contribution to Greenpeace USA, 1611 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20070.

Bob Shea
Bob Shea

BOOKS

C. Cameron, MAGIC SYSTEMS AND POWERS; DREAM CONTROL; DREAM MAGIC ($10 for all 3 from PO Box 140038, Coral Gables, FL 33114): These are the first 3 booklets of the Magic Systems series, currently up to 6 books. At 24 pages each, they are meant to serve as an introduction to a coherent system of magic based on Native American traditions. Cameron holds that to make magic possible, we must first construct a new reality, just as the quantum physicists were forced to do in order to make use of their theories.

The first volume, MAGIC SYSTEMS AND POWERS, starts by taking the reader through such a reconstruction of reality. Cameron discusses his beliefs that Nature is benevolent and interconnected, and shows what magic is possible within this framework. He then gives simple instructions for participating in various magical acts, such as communing with animals or asking for favors. The key point is to accept the benevolence and wisom of Nature, and to let it act, as it knows best, through or around the magician.

The second book, DREAM CONTROL, is a complete set of exercises designed to introduce you to the practice of 'lucid dreaming', similar to the famous dram-world of the Senoi Indians. I haven't tried these exercises, but they look useful, and are very thoroughly explained. One nice touch is suggestions on things to try when the exercises don't work; too many 'systems' assume that everyone will be able to do things at once.

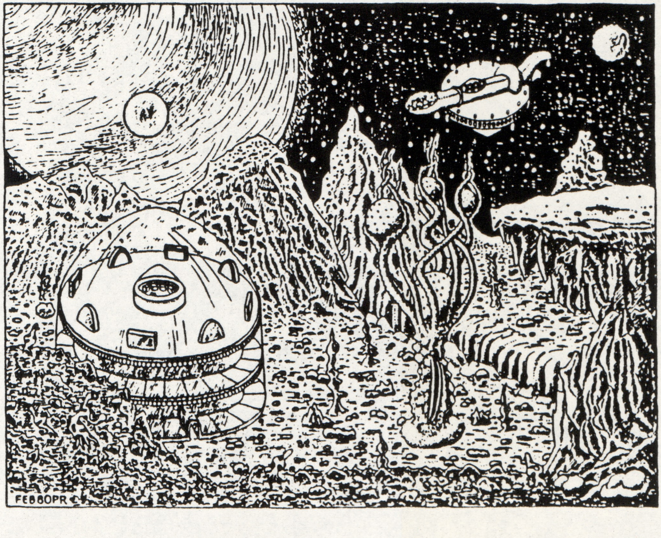
Finally, DREAM MAGIC gives a series of instructions for gradually breaking the barrier between the dream world and the usual world, in order to be able to use one's dreams as an effective magical tool. It is apparent that use of the exercises in this book will result in a reprogramming of the magician in accordance with his own desires.

Overall, the Magic Systems books are of high quality and well-designed for the person who wishes to explore magic but has no local friends to help in the construction of elaborate rituals. I'd be interested in hearing from anyone who tries these exercises and gets results.

*****

Adam Cash, GUERILLA CAPITALISM ($9.95 & $3 s&h from Loompanics Unlimited, PO Box 1197, Port Townshend, WA 98368): The subtitle of this one is "How to practice Free Enterprise in an Unfree Economy". It is meant to be a guide to entering and prospering in the Underground Economy, but actually comes off more as a PR effort for those already in it. Sections of the book cover an overview of the Underground Economy, how to get in to it, what to do with the money, and how to deal with the IRS when they come after you.

The best parts of the book are the chapters that present what are supposed to be actual case histories, though I'd be willing to bet that they are actually composite portraits. From these the prospective entrepreneur can draw his own conclusions on how to operate and find new scams in his own area. The businesses covered include buying and selling cars and diamonds, trucking for cash, and how to turn a hobby into a business without getting caught.



GC also includes extensive footnotes and bibliography for the person who is seriously interested in going underground, and this information is priceless.

Marc Eric Ely-Chaitlin, THE LAST CRUSADE ($5 (?) from PO Box 7075, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677): A collection of tracts for the most part exhorting people to wake up, start treating one another right, and become libertarians. Ely-Chitlin does this from his own unique perspective of the "household government". His basic idea is that under the UN Declaration of Human Rights, one is able to secede and become one's own country.

The next step is to federate with the Free Territory of Ely-Chatelaine for mutual trade. It's hard to tell from the pile of pamphlets I got with the book, but the basic idea seems to be the formation of a barter network. To tell the truth, I don't think much of the whole idea: The IRS is agressively attacking barter networks, and the "household government" concept will never hold up in court. This is just another game that the government will allow so long as they think it is still harmless.

*****

Church of Seven Arrows, SHAMAN'S NOTES 3 ($5 from 4385 Hoyt St. #201, Wheatridge, CO 80033): This, like Chris Cameron's books, is a part of an integrated magical system. Previously, the Seven Arrows folks have put out books on basic magical operations, and the previous volume of this series concerned the outline of a magical system in general (see FACTSHEET FIVE #14).

Now they're back with a book focusing on an often-neglected area in neopaganism: that of personal, private rituals. I get the impression that there are pagans out there who do nothing when they are not in circle with half a dozen other folks. That's OK, but it won't lead to much of a change in one's life. This volume gives an outline of ways to put magic into your daily life, starting with simple things like greeting the Earth and Sky when leaving the house, and working up to complex ones like casting a private circle to talk directly to the various spirits involved in their system (loosely based on the Amerind mythos). Also included are extensive selections on how to locate and use one's own private Sacred Spot and how to find and communicate with a personal Totem animal spirit.

Presented in outline form, SN3 still uses a bit too much emphasis in the form of underlining and italics and what-not in order to cram information into the least possible space, but they're getting this tendency under control. From difficult reading they've got it down to being merely a slight annoyance. I hope they keep up the good work and expand their manuals into a more prose-like structure so as to make them easier and funner to browse through.

*****

Yael Ruth Dragwyla, FORTUITOUS SYNCHRONICITY, BRAG OF THE FEMALE SUBGENIUS, MY KIND OF PEOPLE: XV and DARTH VADER:DAUNTED (Respectively $2.50, $1.20, $2.50 and $1.20 from PO Box 1548, Goleta, CA 93116): A scattering of short pieces and manuscripts from a rather prolific annotator of the occult and the just plain silly.

FORTUITOUS SYNCHRONICITY: TWO ROUGH BEASTS is a dual book review, dealing with Stephen King's Pet Sematary and Jeffrey Masson's The Assault on Truth: Freud's Suppression of the Seduction Theory. One would not suppose that two such books would fit in the same review, but in fact Yael manages to use them to make some reasonably profound points about the problems of modern society.

The BRAG OF THE FEMALE SUBGENIUS is the feminist answer to the sexistly-male BRAG OF THE SUBGENIUS. I can't reprint it in a family zine, but those of the SubGenial persuasion will certainly appreciate this bit of one-upwomanship. Take my word for it, guys.

MY KIND OF PEOPLE: XV is an excerpt from a longer (unfinished?) work, perhaps a modern CANTERBURY TALES. This segment is titled "The Night the Ghost Got In...Anyway" and is a simply hilarious sendup of spiritualism in general and fake mediums in particular. This contains the most stunning manifestation scene it has ever been my privilege to laugh at, complete with special effects by Vlad the Impaler.

Finally, DARTH VADER: DAUNTED is a "¼-Act Play" dealing with a phone conversation between the evil Lord Vader and Susie, the Emperor's 3-year old daughter.

Yael has plenty more stuff available, including poems, cartoons, poetry and occult services. Send an SASE for her pricelist.

*****

Alexis Gilliland, WHO SAYS PARANOIA ISN'T "IN" ANY MORE? ($5.95 & $3 s&h from Loompanics Unlimited, PO Box 1197, Port Townshend, WA 98368): This is a new collection of hilarious cartoons from three-time Hugo Winner Gilliland, whose wit is as fresh and pen as sharp as ever.

If you've never seen his stuff, you should make a point of doing so, either in this book or in SCIENCE FICTION REVIEW (see the Zines section), where he is sort of the staff illuminator. The typical Gilliland cartoon (if there is such a thing) consists of a carefully-inked line drawing of some archetypical character, flanked by a one-liner gag. I'm not going to repeat any here, as the drawing is a large part of the charm. You'll just have to go buy the darned book, OK?

By the way, you'll note that I list $3 shipping and handling for each Loompanics book that I review. That charge is the same no matter how many books you buy -- so better spring for three or four at a time, sport.

*****

John A. Keel, HOW TO ROB THE MAIL (PO Box 20024, New York, NY 10025-9992; $1 & 44¢ stamps): This is something I certainly needed as the editor of FF, and something you might profit from as well. It's the truth about those "Big Mail" ad-sheets I've been talking about in the past few issues (see, for example, the Zine section under "Derralde Carwile").

Jakeel (as he likes to be known) has been in the business for years, since back when ads in the back of POPULAR SCIENCE used to generate phenomenal responses. Now things are different, and he explains why, slowly and carefully. The net effect should be to keep people from wasting their money on ad sheets -- or, at the very least, it should make that money work a bit harder for the spenders.

Particularly interesting are Keel's accounts of various pitfalls, swindles and just plain robbery that abound in the Big Mails business. Let the Mailer beware, I guess.

*****

Bo Lozoff, WE'RE ALL DOING TIME ($10 from Prison-Ashram Project, Rte. 1, Box 201-N, Durham, NC 27705): Luzoff is one of the founders (along with Ram Dass) of the Prison-Ashram Project, a self-help group for prisoners. Their premise is, quite simply, that prison can be a boon for a convict's spiritual life, inasmuch as it gives him a chance to really sit down and concentrate, undisturbed by the usual frantic pace of life. The advice and techniques here are of interest to everyone, but the presentation is sometimes geared towards prisoners.

Bo presents a sort of simplified and Westernized yoga, combined with bits and pieces of common sense. Part 1 is called "The Big View", and contains an outline of his spiritual views, concentrating on an explanation of the idea of karma (and one which might surprise you if you think you already know what karma is).

Book Two is the meat of the presentatinn. Called "Getting Free", it consists of a guide to yoga techniques that can be learned without a teacher handy. Meditation, Hatha Yoga postures, Pranayama breathing exercises, the chakras, and prayer are some of the topics covered here. Anyone can use this stuff, not just prisoners,and I'm going to park this book beside my bed for a while after I'm done reviewing it.

Finally comes "Dear Bo", a collection of letters from prisoners together with Bo's answers as he tries to help these unfortunate men and women along the spiritual path. Anyone who doesn't yet realize how crappy prison life can be ought to read this section for the terror within; the rest of us can just marvel at the jewels that exist amid the mud.

WE'RE ALL DOING TIME is an excellent book, and part of an excellent project. If you're in the pen, or know someone who is, you can get a copy sent free -- just write to the Project and explain the circumstances. And of course they're after donations to contnue their work.

*****

Gerry Reith, NEUTRON GUN ($3.95 from Neither/Nor press, PO Box 8043, Ann Arbor, MI 48107): Gerry was a brilliant young writer and anarcho-savant. He was also my friend. He was all this and much more before he blew his brains out across his typewriter in the deserted Wyoming night. The FBI was behind part of it. So was a woman. But the largest factor in Gerry's death, I think, was his vision of the world as a harsh, fucked-up, and ultimately un-funny place.

This book is a fitting testament to Gerry's skill as a writer and thinker. He died before it came out, but had corrected the galleys, so it's even possible that he himself looked on it as his last words. A collection of short stories, by Gerry and his co-conspirators (including Ed Lawrence, Gregor Tomc and Carly Sommerstein), NEUTRON GUN is literature designed to seduce and disturb.

It fulfills this purpose admirably well. Gerry and company speak in riddles, in parables, in metaphors -- in just about anything other than plain English, for Gerry's vision of the world and its future was too horrible to put into plain words. The language would not stand for it. Instead, we get glimpses and snippets of the world, pre- and post-revolutionary, and the people who live (and die) in it. Gerry is at his best when writing in an anti-political vein; the stories here are among his best.

Of the 14 stories here, the standout for me is "Cost-Benefit Equations", a chilling story of revolution gone so far underground that it can no longer find the light, in a United States where there is no light to be found. Forgive my oblique description and reluctance to speak more openly; as the publisher says, "Some people will say that mere "ideas" cannot be dangerous...well, they've just never had any ideas like these..."

*****

L. A. Rollins, THE MYTH OF NATURAL RIGHTS ($4.95 & $3 s&h from Loompanics Unlimited, PO Box 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368): A lot of libertarians base their philosophy and politics on the concept of "natural rights". This ought to be a familiar idea to most Americans, being stated in the Declaration of Independence: the idea that men have certain inalienable rights by mere reason of being men, and (implicitly) that these rights mean something.

Rollins takes the opposing view, the egoist view as partially advocated by Max Stirner a century ago. He argues that natural rights are fictions, and inconsistent fictions at that, using quotes from major libertarian thinkers (Rand, Rothbard, Machan, Konkin, LeFevre and others) as the takeoff point for a devastating attack.

Is this then the last word on the subject? No, of course not. The subject is not going to be decided one way or the other while we live, while there are two people to argue. But this is an eloquent statement of the position of one side.

*****

Victor Santoro, TECHNIQUES OF REVENGE ($7.95 & $3 s&h from Loompanics Unlimited, PO Box 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368): Just what the title says, this is a collection of techniques for retaliating against someone you feel has done you wrong. Santoro may be, as the introduction claims, the "Godfather of Harassment", but most of this stuff is just high-school type pranks: dragging a can opener along someone's car, calling their boss to spread rumors, signing him up for KKK membership, putting fake ads in the paper with his name attached, and so on at tedious length. I'm afraid my own imagination is plenty good enough that I feel this book to be superfluous.

*****

David Stanley, ALASKA-YUKON HANDBOOK ($9.20 from Moon Publications, PO Box 1969, Chico, CA 95927): You could take a cruise up the Pacific Coast, or go on a package tour -- or you could buy this book and really see Alaska and the Yukon. David Stanley packs a wealth of information into his writing, and thinks of travel on a far more personal level than does, say, the Triple A.

The HANDBOOK starts off with a few pages of general information: how to get there, what to take, how to deal with bears (if all else fails, play dead). Then comes the real meat of it: a city-by-city, area-by-area guide to what to see, do, eat, wear and enjoy while in the area.

Stanley has clearly been there himself. Cheap hotel addresses and rates; where to rent a kayak; train rides to take; best campsites; where to eat; locations of petroglyphs -- the list is endless. The whole thing is sturdily bound8 by 5 inches and perfect to stuff in a pack and take along on your trip. And the publishers are smart enough to leave some space in the margins for your own notations.

Moon Publications also puts out other travel books in similar detail (including SOUTH PACIFIC HANDBOOK, reviewed in FF14); drop them a line before you head for the hills.

*****

PUBLISHING NOTES: The Loompanics catalog (see above for address) is itself available for $2 and much recommended: 150 pages of fine subversive books, plus articles on tax fraud, draft resistance and totalitarian computer use, among others...For an SASE you can get Neither/Nor's catalog (see above again), and probably some subversive flyers. You might also want to check out their irregular journal, BEATNIKS FROM SPACE... Circle-A Publishers (8608 E. Hubbell, Dept. 15Q, Scottsdale, AZ 85257) is offering E.X. Boozhie's THE OUTLAW'S BIBLE, guide to evading the criminal justice system, for $12.95...Chicago-area anarchist bookseller IMPOSSIBLE BOOKS has moved to Box 102, 1200 W. Fullerton, Chicago, IL 60614 (ask about the May 1986 shindig)...Oness Press (90 Thornton Ln., #1, Cottage Grove, OR 97424) will send samples of Kid's Lib lit for SASE.

LAST CALL (The Destroyer #35), by Richard Sapir & Warren Murphy (Pinnacle pb 1978): Not as chewy as most of the Destroyer books, which is saying quite a lot. The plot becomes obvious far too soon as the unknown assassin stands out like a sore thumb. (★★½★)

VOYAGE TO THE CITY OF THE DEAD, by Alan Dean Foster (Ballantine pb 1984): Hack-work from a hack. Two scientists cruise up a very long river, have adventures, meet a super-being, and set up for a sequel. (★)

THE SOUR LEMON SCORE & DEADLY EDGE, by Donald Westlake (Avon pb 1985): Two Parker adventures in the old Ace Double format. Parker steals for a living, and these are fast-moving adventure stories, with more danger from his fellow criminals than the cops. Well-plotted and fun. (★★★★★)

ONE POLICE PLAZA, by William J. Caunitz (Bantam pb 1985): New York homicide detectives get mixed up with Israeli intelligence and other unsavory types, leading to a massive final battle on a city bridge. Ho-hum. (★★★)

HEECHEE RENDEZVOUS, by Frederik Pohl (Ballantine pb 1984): The end of the Heechee trilogy, this book answers the question "What happened to those super-aliens, anyhow?" in a fashion quite consistent with the previous books. It's almost like Pohl planned a trilogy all along. (★★★★½★)

THE RISE OF THE COMPUTER STATE, by David Burnham (Vintage tpb 1984): Good overview of the databanks in existence, their use and abuse, attempts at legal protection of privacy and possible futures. Realistic without being deliberately grim. (★★★★)

THE LATHE OF HEAVEN, by Ursula K. LeGuin (Avon pb 1973): The story of a man who can change the world by dreaming and the mad scientist who attempts to control him for the purest of reasons. Some new ideas in the old alternate worlds scenario, and a spiffy ending. (★★★★)

WOMEN, RESISTANCE & REVOLUTION, by Sheila Rowbotham (Vintage pb 1974): Historical examination of the role of women in revolutionary movements from the seventeenth century to the present. Lots of interesting details, but the analysis is often shallow. (★★★)

SO LONG, AND THANKS FOR ALL THE FISH, by Douglas Adams (Harmony hc 1984): The fourth book in the Hitchhiker's Guide trilogy. I think Adams wrote it poorly on purpose so no one would bother him for a fifth book. That's the minority opinion, but I give it...(★)

THREAT, by Richard Jessup (Viking hc 1981): Demolitions expert blackmails a large firm by planting bombs in their pretty new building, and thinks of a new and safe way to collect his payoff. Moves well and seems remotely plausible, better than most city thrillers. (★★★★)

SHIP OF DEATH (The Destroyer #28), by Richard Sapir & Warren Murphy (Pinnacle pb 1977): Remo in his top form finds himself on a cruise ship with a bunch of nasty people who he proceeds to beat up. Perfect martial-arts escapism. For the cognoscenti, this is the book where Chiun decides he doesn't want to work for Persia after all. (★★★★★)

THE CULT OF THE ATOM, by Daniel Ford (Touchstone tpb 1984): Thanks to the Freedom of Information Act, Ford can show that the AEC is as poorly-run as any other government bureaucracy. A good argument against government control of atomic power but a poor one against atomic power itself. (★★★½★)

THE LAST HERO, by Anthony Cave Brown (Vintage tpb 1984): The authorized biography of General "Wild Bill" Donovan, founder of the OSS. Interesting popularization by an excellent historian. Gives the feel of the times without bogging down in minutae. (★★★★)

STOMPING GROUND, by Denis Hamill (Delacorte hc 1980): A story of love, maturity and throat-cutting, set against a gritty and ugly New York City. Not fun, not interesting, not a winner. (★)

MIAMI AND THE SIEGE OF CHICAGO, by Norman Mailer (Signet pb 1968): Somewhere under Mailer's prose is a history of the nominating conventions of 1968. I'd rather read Hunter Thompson's account. (★★)

THE SEVEN LAWS OF MONEY, by Michael Phillips (Random House tpb 1974): A rap on money and its consequences for the hip crowd who don't mind wino explanations of economics. Not bad, actually, though I'm not sure I learned much from things like "Money has its own rules". Probably a good remedy for taking cash too seriously. (★★★½★)

PRELUDE TO REVOLUTION, by Daniel Singer (Hill & Wang hc 1970): A history of the French student revolts of 1968. The author is a socialist but remains objective. He does a good job of pointing out where the movement went wrong, but was too optimistic in expecting other attempts to succeed in destroying the system soon. (★★★★)

VOYAGERS, by Ben Bova (Bantam pb 1985): The hardware has more emotions than the people in this novel of first contact with an alien artifact. Bova couldn't write his way out of a paper bag with a chainsaw. (A)

THE CRUCIBLE OF TIME, by John Brunner (Ballantine pb 1984): The story of an alien society attempting to survive on a hostile planet. They manage by developing a technology based on biology rather than physics. Well-done alternate culture surrounding a rather blah story. (AA½A)

REFLEX, by Dick FrancisFawcett Crest pb 1984): A jockey and amateur photographer turns into a sleuth and professional photographer as he uncovers a tangled web of blackmail and murder. Francis is one of the modern masterminds of the art of plotting. Leave a whole evening to read this as you won't want to take a break. (AAAAA)

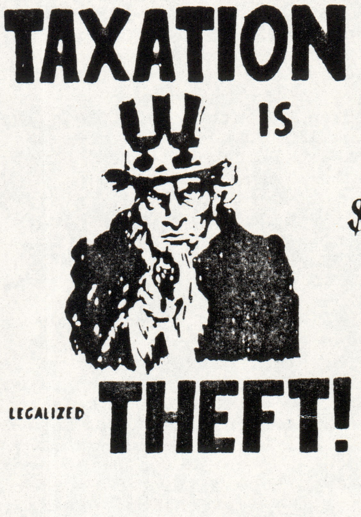
THE GOLDEN PEOPLE, by Fred Saberhagen (Baen pb 1984): Superhuman mutants produced by genetic engineering go up against the alien nasties and their own renegades in a staggeringly dull book. ()

TO DIE IN CALIFORNIA, by Newton Thornburg (Little, Brown hc 1973): A farmer and father comes to flake-o Santa Barabra to investigate the apparent suicide of his teenaged son. He catches the murderers, sees some sort of justice done, and of course goes back to the farm. (AA)

HOOLIGANS, by William Diehl (Ballantine pb 1985): The Feds go up against the Mob, but then the mob starts getting blown away and the Feds get busy looking for the murderer. Since this is all going on in a little Georgia town there are also hot undercurrents of passion and all that jazz. Surprisingly good. (AAA½A)

THE FIFTH ANGEL, by David Wiltse (MacMillan hc 1985): A member of an elite military unit goes nutso and starts attacking New York. (Why is it always New York?)His former CO and his nephew team up with the FBI to stop him. A well-done suspense novel that will leave you close to breathless. (AAAA½A)

THE CONGLOMEROID COCKTAIL PARTY, by Robert Silverberg (Bantam pb 1985): A collection of classic short stories and more recent stuff. Silverberg is an excellent writer when he's not being too experimental, and most of these are straightforward. Best of the lot is "The Regulars", an intriguing barroom story. (AAAA)



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FEEDBACK

I think what you're doing is really good, even though, in my opinion, you fairly missed the point of NADA. A "beat the system pub"? No, no, no, no. That's obviously a part of it: when the cards are hopelessly stacked against you, there's no reason why you shouldn't take the dealer by surprise once in a while by knocking them off the table -- or pissing on them -- and forcing him to get a new deck. But I think the bigger message is something less mundane than "Hey, let's all fuck up the man's money and machines scream and yell, and show what pests we can be", not that there's anything wrong with that of course....[NADA is] mainly an attempt to encourage people to think creatively (or something like that). -- Dave from NADA

((I can see your point, but I think you managed to mislead me by directing all of your creativity against the system, rather than around it. Lots of people preach revolution, but judging from your writing talent, I'd expect you guys to preach alternatives.))

*****

Wish I lived next door to you & could read your library of weird publications. -- Brian Callahan from LEVEL

((Hey, you (and other FF readers) are welcome to drop in and see the Incredible Fanzine Collection if you're in town. Just give me a call before you do.))

*****

Well, I like the Post Office. Even with the recent raise in mailing costs, it's still a cheap way to get stuff around the country. Of course, I don't mail that much. Wonder what brought that on. --David Steinlicht

*****

What about Factsheets number 1--4? --Frank Girard

((Never was such a thing, Frank. I'm considering dropping the number (a John Brunner story reference) from the name at this point, as it's confusing more of my audience than not.))

*****

As a reference librarian I find your issue very useful in both my creative endeavors and in helping others find suitable places of publication, keep up the good work, I'm impressed. --Lawrence Oberc

*****

I am very unsatisfied, disappointed, and pissed off at your review of SURREAL ESTATES #1. I think that rather than judge it on its own merit you assigned it to the "Discordian zine" category because (I guess) that's what I used to publish. Look at it again while steadfastly NOT THINKING about ADD; does it still look like a Discordian zine? When I wrote in the introduction that ADD had become too confining I wasn't just talking about the format but the form....Looking at your list of boxes to put zines in, I see none that I would be satisfied with, but Discordian is one of the least appropriate. --Revo

((Ah, the continuing problems of pigeonholing. I try to fairly describe every zine, but a one-word description can say more than a paragraph when the references are shared. Discordian seems like a state of mind to me, and perhaps you're lost in it without knowing (as with Chapel Perilous) or perhaps I'm full of shit. Add to this the fact that there is no Official Definition of Discordian, and the fact that the Discordians have the Surrealists among their forebears, and you can see (I hope) how I would get confused. Since you define it as such, SE must perforce be a Surrealist project; but then, I think you could also get away with defining it as a Situationist, Dadaist or Neoist project. In any case, I hope you're happier with the review this issue.))

I was pleased to see your interest in anarcho-capitalism and libertarianism (I'm a member of the party), but why are you against the Libertarian party? It's true that their newsletters are basically pretty boring, but they have gotten people elected, and it seems to me that it's one way (but not the only way by any means) of working for freedom. --Tom from Boner Records

((True, there have been LPers elected, and they have promptly sworn an oath to uphold the laws of the land, making them an integral part of the very system they claim to want to destroy. I don't think that lying (either during the oath or to your supporters, pick one), is a Good Thing. On a deeper level, I think electoral politics and democracy are themselves profoundly coercive, and have no place in a free society.))

*****

As eclectic as your fanzine reviews are, and as much as I appreciate this flexibility on your part, it's slightly disconcerting that Rock and Political (both anarchist and Constitutionalist) have grown to the status of DOMINATION. It's not really an even balance any longer like it was when I first discovered FACTSHEET FIVE. Maybe the direction your fanzine review column has taken reflects where you're at? --Dave Szurek

((No, I think it reflects where the small publishing industry is at. I review anything I can get my hands on; if the punks and the anarchists are publishing more, or more willing to trade with other zines, then they get more press. I'd like, for example, to cover more sfanzines, but they won't trade with me; I'd like to cover more humor rags, but I can't find them. I send out close to a hundred copies of each FF to publications I've heard of but never seen; the ones that respond get added to my review list.))

*****

Much of my stuff I kiss goodbye by sending the original away on the envelope. You call it Mail Art, I guess. I don't like the fact that it's become a thing in people's minds as an Arty or Artsy thing to do. My Mail Art has become more pointed and blunt and serious. It's resulted in mutilated mail which I receive, and which I send, of course....I shall be moving to S.F. and I'm going to try and squat as long as I possibly can. I want to try to live without having to work for as long as I can. I want to see if this experience affords more/equal/or less time to do things for myself than if I work. --Gatsby

((Good luck in the squat, let me know how it goes. Mail Art: the ultimate small press run, perhaps?))

*****

What do you know about this zany character called Brainbeau? His economics of percentages instead of fixed wages sounds like a good idea. But he forgets, as do most idealists/dreamers/thinkers, that human beings are still animals, the masses of them ruled by their greed, illusions, fear, stomachs, genitals and gods....Anarchy won't work, and neither will its relative Libertarianism, because the human animal is not up to it. People don't have what it takes inside them to rule themselves, to do unto others as you would have others do unto you, or to just leave others alone and expect the same from them. --J.O. Evans,Jr.

((What a profoundly depressing view of the world. I'm glad I don't share it with you. Even if the masses can't be free (a point I do not grant) I can, and I intend to be.))

*****

I'm glad you chose to list/review LTE 2 issues ago but I don't like the way you did it -- that is, saying a lot of the writing reminds you of Michael Moorcock. Who the hell is Michael Moorcock? I never heard of the guy. That's my point. If you're going to refer to other writers you're only going to relate to readers who have heard of them and to everyone else your review will mean nothing. If you aren't going to take the time to describe the magazine, if you are merely going to sluff off and dismiss it with an allusion/comparison, please don't list LTE at all. --Michael Kaniecki from Lobster Tendencies East

((Moorcock is a well-known SF author who has written such gems as the Jerry Cornelius series and the Elric series, as well as being past editor of the infamous NEW WORLDS magazine. I daresay most of my readers have heard of him. As to descriptions rather than allusions, the problem is one of time, space and money: a well-chosen allusion can save all three for me, and pack more info into less space.))

Hopefully in reviewing ANIC5 in F5 you will refrain from your Racial Bias & support of the British terrorists, this time. Otherwise, you will receive a slanted review of F5 from us next ANIC. This is the second time, you have allowed your own 'interests' to Dictate your 'reviews' of ANIC. If it continues we will cease to participate in F5 and not bother with FreFanzine either. Yuppies are businessman Criminals. You sound more like the L.P. every day. Your own words designate you as the "Liar','Racist','Statist', not ours....There are many associate networks/publications here, you don't even know about yet, and they may be reluctant to send them onto you for F5. As they all resent rich yuppies....We will continue to trade Our ANIC for your F5 your "critizims" just create notoriety for us anyway. I having a Jewish SurName, & Gabi=Mexican. Shane Williams sounds like a Nazi to us, why do you have such a pro-Death Corporation authoritarian as him on F5 staff. Libertarian indeed! --Ron from A NEW IRON COLUMN

((Oooh, threats! I'm scared. Look, I'll review ANIC just as it looks to me, and if you want to retaliate, go right ahead. I don't know why you think British soldiers with guns are any worse than Irish Provos with guns (and note that I don't say they're any better either), and I really don't think I care. Anyone familiar with me knows I'm not a "rich Yuppie"; my taxable income has been under $10K a year for some years now. No Perrier in the house either. As for Shane being a Nazi, that's simply ludicrous, as you'd know if you bothered to get in touch with the man yourself rather than making snap judgements based on who-knows-what. In passing, calling anyone you dislike a Nazi or a Racist is a damned good way to dilute the impact of the words and make things easier for the real Nazis and Racists around. Finally, I printed your letter as received, without cleaning up spelling, grammar, or making any attempt to find the logic, because I think your childish whining is more likely to tell readers what kind of zine you're running than any number of reviews.))

*****

How does Factsheet Five work, anyways? Money, and all that, and can we contribute? I've got a couple page story that I'd like to see get printed, how much do I have to pay you (hor hor, etc.) ?
--Joe & Tom at Journal of Erickson's Stage 6½

((Sorry, guys, but I'm certainly not in the market for short fiction. Try any of the literary mags I reviewed in the previous pages. As to how the money and all that works, see the first couple of pages for sub rates to see how it works for readers. As to how it works for me, I figure I've lost about $375 in the first half of 1985, which isn't so very much if you think about it, but of course I'd rather be a rich Yuppie.))

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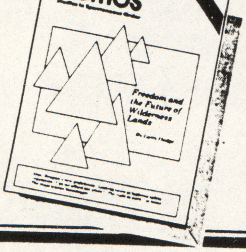
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EVERYONE IN THE COURT ROOM IN CHATTANOOGA SHOULD HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. IT'S A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD THAT TUPPER SAUSSY WAS NOT GIVEN A WITNESS OATH WHEN HE TESTIFIED IN HIS OWN BEHALF ON DAY TWO OF HIS TWO-DAY TRIAL BEFORE JUDGE TOM HULL. MAY 30, 1985.

He was→ not required to take the oath with others at beginning since he was not compelled to divulge that he would be a witness at that time.

He was not sworn as he took the stand.

EVERY WITNESS WAS SWORN, THAT IS; EVERYONE BUT TUPPER.

WHY? DID THE COURT INTEND TO RESERVE THE OPTION OF STRIKING TUPPER'S TESTIMONY?

2. IT'S PUBLIC RECORD THAT THE ACCUSED (TUPPER SAUSSY) WAS COMPELLED TO TAKE A WITNESS OATH AND COMPELLED TO TESTIFY AGAINST HIMSELF BEFORE MAGISTRATE JOHNNY POWERS ON APRIL 1, 1985.

UNDER THE 5TH AMENDMENT, NO ACCUSED MAY EVER BE FORCED TO TAKE AN OATH AND GIVE TESTIMONY AGAINST HIMSELF.

REMEMBER, TUPPER SAUSSY WAS JAILED FOR CONTEMPT ON APRIL 1, 1985.

THE PROSECUTOR USED THE WORD "CONTEMPT" FOUR TIMES. SEE THE TRANSCRIPT.

THIS IMPRISONMENT FOR CONTEMPT RESULTED FROM TUPPER'S COMPELLED TESTIMONY; HIS TESTIMONY BEING THE ONLY TESTIMONY GIVEN INTO EVIDENCE BEFORE JAILING HIM FOR CONTEMPT.

3. IT IS UNHEARD OF THAT ANY WITNESS IN ANY LAWFUL COURT EVER TESTIFIES WITHOUT BEING SWORN. IT'S ALSO UNHEARD OF THAT ANY ACCUSED BE COMPELLED TO TAKE AN OATH AND BE FORCED TO TESTIFY AGAINST HIMSELF.

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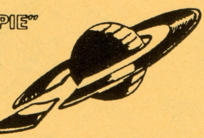

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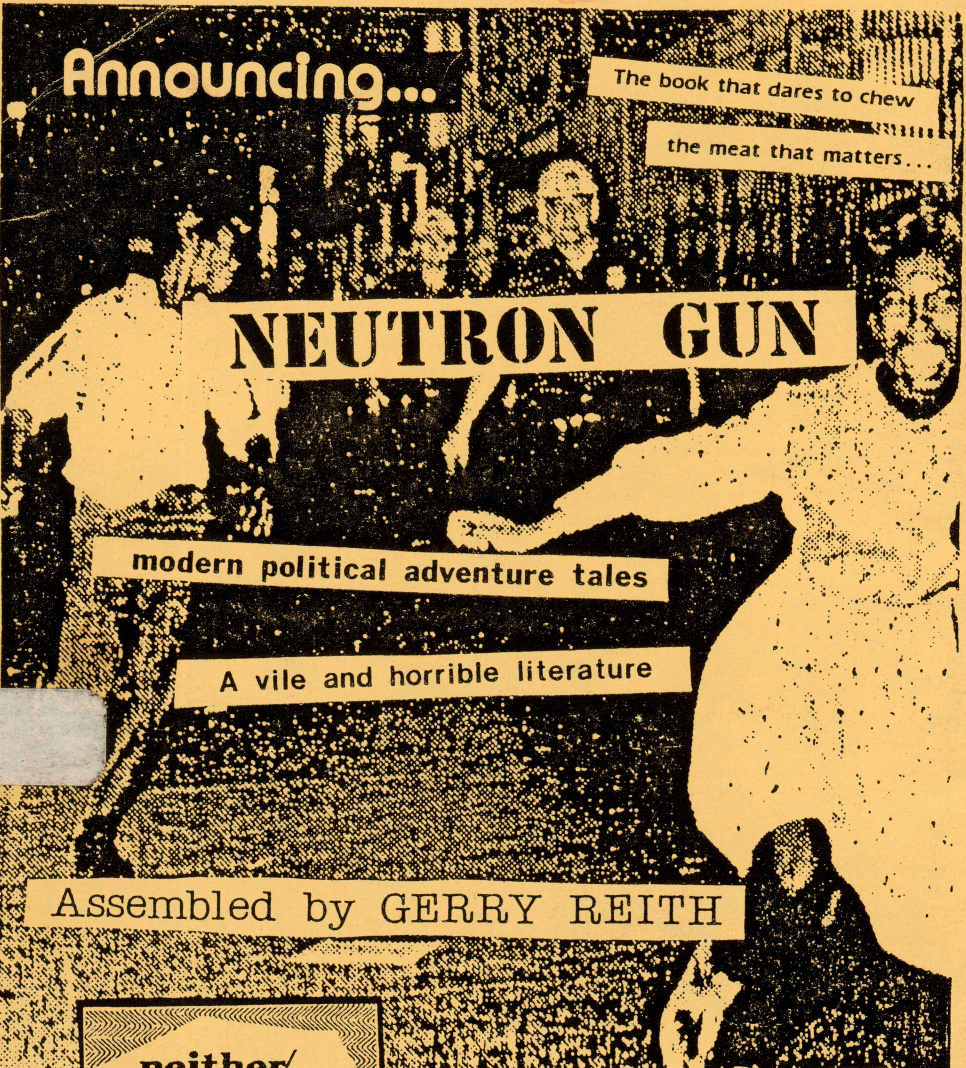
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